



## Obama claims 'full responsibility' for website

President Barack Obama speaks at historic Faneuil Hall, where the president's one-time rival for the White House, Mitt Romney, signed the state's health program into law, in Boston, Mass., Oct. 30, 2013. Obama argued that the similarities between the two laws should give the public confidence that the problems plaguing the Affordable Care Act will eventually fade.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

### Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama claimed "full responsibility" Wednesday for fixing his administration's health insurance website as a new concern emerged: a government memo pointing to security worries, written shortly before the site's Oct. 1 launch. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebel-

ius apologized to frustrated people trying to sign up for health coverage, telling a congressional committee she is accountable for the failures. The website sign-up problems will be fixed by Nov. 30, she said. Both Obama and Sebelius defended the historic health care overhaul, which seeks to provide millions of Americans with government-mandated

health insurance. The United States had been the largest developed nation without a national health care system. Obama told an audience in Boston, "We are going to see this through." But he underscored his administration's unhappiness with the problems so far: "There's no excuse for it," he said. The website HealthCare.gov was still experiencing

outages as Sebelius faced questions from the House Energy and Commerce Committee about a security memo from her department. The memo, obtained by The Associated Press, said incomplete testing created uncertainties that posed a potentially high security risk for the website. It called for a six-month "mitigation" program, including ongoing

monitoring and testing. It revealed that the troubled website was granted a temporary security certificate on Sept. 27, just four days before it went live. Republicans argue the troubled website's glitches are proof the government is incapable of managing the complex health care program.

**Continued on page 5**



## NSA backlash threatens US/EU trade

**JUERGEN BAETZ**  
**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The backlash in Europe over U.S. spying is threatening an agreement that generates tens of billions of dollars in trans-Atlantic business every year — and negotiations on another pact worth many times more. A growing number of European officials are calling for the suspension of the “Safe Harbor” agreement that lets U.S. companies process commercial and personal data — sales, emails, photos — from customers in Europe. This little-known but vital deal allows more than 4,200 American companies to do business in Europe, in-

cluding Internet giants like Apple, Google, Facebook and Amazon. Revelations of the extent of U.S. spying on its European allies is also threatening to undermine one of President Barack Obama's top trans-Atlantic goals: a sweeping free-trade agreement that would add an estimated \$138 billion (100 billion euros) a year to each economy's gross domestic product. Top EU officials say the trust needed for the negotiations has been shattered. “For ambitious and complex negotiations to suc-

ceed, there needs to be trust among the negotiating partners,” EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding said Wednesday in a speech at Yale University. At the very least, the Europeans are expected to demand that the U.S. significantly strengthen its privacy laws to give consumers much more control over how companies use their personal data — and extend those rights to European citizens, maybe even giving them the right to sue American companies in U.S. courts. The Europeans had long been pressing these issues with the Americans.

But since former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden began to leak surprising details on the extent of U.S. surveillance in Europe, the European demands have grown teeth. “I don't think the U.S. government can be convinced by arguments or outrage alone, but by making it clear that American interests will suffer if this global surveillance is simply continued,” said Peter Schaer, the head of Germany's data protection watchdog. One sanction the European Union could slap on the U.S. would be to suspend the Safe Harbor deal, which allows American businesses to store and process their data where they want. It aims to ensure that European customers' data are just as safe as in Europe when handled in the U.S. By signing up for the self-reporting scheme supervised by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, U.S. companies gain the right to move data about their business and consumers back and forth between the EU and the U.S. as needed. Without it, U.S. firms would face either a lengthy and complicated case-by-case approval procedure by European data protection



**President Barack Obama greets President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso at Camp David, Md. The backlash in Europe over U.S. spying is threatening an agreement that generates tens of billions of dollars in trans-Atlantic business every year - and negotiations on another pact worth many times more.**

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

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authorities, or a technological nightmare of having to ensure that European data is stored and processed only on servers within the 28-nation bloc. That would be costly and in some cases impossible — and could force U.S. businesses to stop servicing European customers. “There is really no viable alternative in the near-term,” said Chris Babel, chief executive of San Francisco-based TRUSTe, which helps American firms get Safe Harbor certification from the U.S. Department of Commerce. □

## Brazil's OGX oil files for bankruptcy protection

**BRADLEY BROOKS**  
**Associated Press**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — The oil company of Brazil's one-time richest man filed for bankruptcy protection Wednesday, a humbling blow to Eike Batista, a former champion speedboat racer who has been his nation's biggest economic cheerleader in recent years. Brazilians and analysts alike struggled to understand the rise and fall of Batista, who largely bankrolled Rio's winning bid to host the 2016 Olympics, and whether it could be linked to Brazil's own economic sluggishness of the past three years.

Some said the story of Batista's inability to deliver on producing offshore oil and resulting inability to obtain investor credit was a by-product of bad luck and a toughening overall economic environment. Others feared it's just the latest sign that Brazil won't soon see an end to its economic slide.

“What's the phrase? When the tide goes out, you can see the man who is not wearing a bathing suit?” said Jefferson Finch, a Latin America analyst with the New York-based consulting firm Eurasia Group. “That's what's happened with Eike Batista.”

Finch said that “investor enthusiasm started turning on Brazil around 2011” after five years of high hopes South America's biggest nation had finally turned a corner and would make good on its longtime promise to become a perennial power with repeated years of strong growth.

“But if you look at the overall context, Brazil was never as promising as people said it was in 2006, when a lot of commentators were effervescent on Brazil, ignoring the structural challenges it faced,” he said. “Now, Brazil is not as bad as all the negative commentary.” Among the indicators that Brazil is heading in the right direction, Finch pointed to the government's slow

but steady efforts to boost infrastructure investment, push tax reform and send tens of thousands of college science students abroad to get better training to eventually fill a gap in skilled labor.

But with economic growth of just 0.9 percent last year, a long fall from the 7.5 percent growth seen in 2010 amid a global financial crisis, others expressed doubts.

“The entire thing has had a really negative impact on Brazil's image and reinforces the need for stronger corporate governance in this country,” said Cassia Pontes, an oil industry analyst with the Rio-based Lopes Filho consulting firm. “Reality didn't live up to the exaggerated expectations created by Batista.”

In filing for bankruptcy protection before a Rio de Janeiro state court, Batista's OGX Petroleo e Gas Participacoes SA now has 60 days to come up with a restructuring plan. Investors holding \$3.6 billion in debt will then have 180 days to accept or reject the plan. If it's not accepted, the company will be liquidated.

OGX is the backbone of a Batista empire that also includes steel, mining, infrastructure and real estate companies. Batista was in talks for months with OGX's creditors, but earlier this month the company missed a \$45 million interest payment on the bonds and hopes of working out a deal evaporated.

OGX reported on its website that it needs \$250 million “to satisfy near-term liquidity through the first quarter of 2014.” The company said that if the restructuring plan isn't accepted, and with no new funding, it will run out of cash before year's end.

For Henrique Matias Lorenzo, a 27-year-old graphic designer in Sao Paulo who sipped a coffee while reading about Batista on his iPad, the fall of Brazil's best-known business playboy should serve as a slap of reality for his country. □



## Amsterdam: Black Pete can visit the city

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — “Black Pete” is welcome in Amsterdam, despite opponents who say the helper of the Dutch version of Santa Claus is a racist caricature. Amsterdam municipality said Wednesday the traditional arrival of Sinterklaas and his helper Zwarte Piet, or Black Pete, can go ahead Nov. 17, despite official complaints filed by 21 citizens alleging the event is racist.

In a letter to aldermen, Mayor Eberhard van der Laan says the celebration in which St. Nicholas — Sinterklaas in Dutch — arrives by steamboat from Spain accompanied by a horde of Black Petes is constantly evolving.

Pete already has changed from a stereotypical subservient black servant to a playful clown who no longer has to have “curly hair, thick lips and doesn’t necessarily need to be black” Van der Laan wrote. □



Some Dutch people dressed in costume were among the several hundred that demonstrated in The Hague, Netherlands to show their determination to keep alive a tradition of allowing actors to wear blackface makeup during the country’s annual St. Nicholas festival for children. A vocal minority of Dutch people, especially of African descent, and many observers in the rest of the world think the Black Pete tradition is offensive, given Pete’s appearance includes curly hair, big red lips and black face-paint. But a large majority of Dutch people say Black Pete is a figure of fun and no racial insult is intended. Banner says: ‘Don’t delete Piet’.

(AP Photo/ Patrick Post)

## Israel approves 1,500 new apartments in Jerusalem

JODI RUDOREN

© 2013 New York Times

**JERUSALEM** - The Israeli government announced Wednesday that it had given final approval for 1,500 new apartments in a particularly contentious Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem and moved forward on plans for a controversial park and tourism center here, prompting Palestinian accusations that it is not taking the Washington-brokered peace talks seriously.

The construction approvals were an expected attempt to appease Israeli politicians and citizens outraged over the release of 26 Palestinian prisoners who were convicted of murdering Israelis.

The men were released overnight under the agreement that began the talks this summer.

In recent days, some right-wing lawmakers and rela-

tives of the prisoners’ victims denounced the idea that freeing criminals was an acceptable alternative to freezing settlement construction, as the Palestinian leadership originally demanded to enter the talks. “The attempt to link the release of the murderers to construction tenders is manipulative and morally wrong,” the Jewish Home Party, which led the opposition to the prisoner release and supports settlements, said in a statement. “It will be better if the prime minister does not release murderers and does not build. This looks like a despicable attempt to free murders and tarnish the settlement enterprise.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made no public statement about the new construction, but has previously said that Israel has the right to build anywhere in Jerusalem. □



# Ban on discrimination against gays gains ground in senate

**JEREMY W. PETERS**

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**WASHINGTON** - Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., said Wednesday that he would vote for a nondiscrimination bill that protects gay men, lesbians and transgender people, putting the measure within one vote of gaining the support it needs to overcome a filibuster.

Manchin was the only Democrat who had not signaled how he would vote. His support means that all 55 members of the Democratic majority are expected to get behind the bill, known as the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, which has languished in various forms in Congress for nearly 40 years. Sen. Harry Reid of

Nevada, the majority leader, could bring it to the floor as early as next week. "There's no way that I could ever not support something that basically bans discrimination," Manchin said. "There's no way. It's just a fundamental right." Four Republicans have also expressed support, meaning there are now 59 sena-

tors who are on record as favoring the measure. Sixty votes are needed to overcome a filibuster.

The Republicans who are expected to vote yes are Susan Collins of Maine, Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, Mark S. Kirk of Illinois and Lisa

While Manchin's support makes it much more likely that the bill will get through the Senate, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is another story.

The bill would grant protection from discrimina-

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Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) in his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Oct. 30 2013. Manchin says he would vote for a nondiscrimination bill that protects gay men, lesbians and transgender people, putting the measure within one vote of gaining the support it needs to overcome a filibuster.

(Doug Mills/ The New York Times)

Murkowski of Alaska. Collins and Kirk, who are co-sponsors of the bill, have been working to persuade colleagues on their side of the aisle.

So far, the most likely undeclared Republican supporter appears to be Rob Portman of Ohio, who said this week that he was inclined to vote yes. Portman said earlier this year that he had come around on the issue of same-sex marriage after learning that his son is gay.

tion to people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

It would be the first measure of its kind to advance to the floor in either house of Congress. Previous versions of the bill that have come to a vote have not included provisions for transgender people.

There is no federal law prohibiting discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation; 29 states also do not have such a law. □

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# Obama claims 'full responsibility' for website

Continued from front

"You accepted a risk on behalf of every user ... that put their personal financial information at risk," Rep. Mike Rogers told Sebelius, citing the memo. "Amazon would never do this. ... This is completely an unacceptable level of security." Sebelius countered that the system is secure. Added spokeswoman Joanne Peters: "When consumers fill out their online... applications, they can trust that the information they're providing is protected by stringent security standards and that the technology underlying the application process has been tested and is secure."

Republicans opposed to Obama's health care law are calling for Sebelius to resign. HealthCare.gov was intended to be the online gateway to coverage for millions of uninsured Americans, as well those who already purchase their policies individually. Many people in the latter group will have to get new insurance next year because their policies do not meet the standards of the new law. Starting Jan. 1, most Americans will be required to carry health insurance or face fines. At the same time, insurance companies will no longer be able to turn away people in poor health. The

law provides subsidized private insurance for middle-class people who don't

get health care on the job. Low-income people can access an expanded ver-

sion of Medicaid in states that agree to expand that safety net program. Lawmakers wanted to know how many people have enrolled in plans through the health insurance marketplaces. Sebelius stuck with the administration response, promising to release the data in mid-November. Obama's White House legacy depends heavily on whether his massive overhaul of the U.S. health care system will succeed. Sebelius testified as another controversy brewed over a wave of cancellation notices hitting small businesses and individuals who buy their own insurance. □



Protesters interrupt President Barack Obama as he speaks at Boston's historic Faneuil Hall about the federal health care law, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. Faneuil Hall is where former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Obama's rival in the 2012 presidential election, signed the state's landmark health care law in 2006, with top Democrats standing by his side. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## St. Louis man arrested for Boston threat on internet

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis police have arrested a social media manager for allegedly making online threats invoking the Boston Marathon bombings as the Red Sox prepared to play the Cardinals at Busch Stadium in the World Series. A probable cause statements released Tuesday said Robert Metzinger's former employer at a St. Louis marketing firm alerted police last week to several threatening Twitter posts from an account that has since been disabled. Police say the tweets referenced the April bombings and the use of a pressure cooker. The probable cause statement did not quote the tweets directly but referred to an "implied threat to use an explosive device in or around the area of Busch Stadium during the upcoming World Series" and listed

Metzinger's work address at an office located eight blocks from the Cardinals' downtown stadium. Police Chief Sam Dotson told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch he didn't know if the 31-year-old planned to act on the threats, but he "wasn't going to take any chances with the safety of the fans and Major League Baseball." Metzinger was charged with a misdemeanor offense of making a threat with criminal negligence with regard to the risk of causing evacuation/quarantine/closure of any portion of a building or place of assembly. Court records don't list an attorney for Metzinger, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday. He was released on bond and is scheduled to return to court in late November. □

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## Twitter accused of ruse to pump up share price

LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Two financial firms sued Twitter on Wednesday, saying it supported their own world tour to sell its shares last year, only to disallow the sales in a ruse aimed at boosting the company's valuation above \$10 billion for an initial public offering. Precedo Capital Group Inc., based in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Continental Advisors, based in Luxembourg, sought \$124 million in damages, including \$100 million in punitive damages, for misrepresentations that it said were "wanton and egregious."

Expected to go public before Thanksgiving, Twitter's plan to sell 70 million shares will be the biggest technology IPO since Facebook went public last year. In a regulatory filing last week, Twitter set a price range of \$17 to \$20 per share for its offering. At the \$20 share price, Twitter would be valued at about \$12.5 billion. The two financial companies said they took the roadshow through several countries and three continents in September 2012, lining up institutional funds, asset managers and high net worth individuals to buy \$278 million in Twitter shares.

The lawsuit accused San Francisco-based Twitter of seeking an artificial market to ensure at least a \$19-per-share price, injuring the public because the initial offering price for its shares will not be based on price-to-earnings ratio and balance sheet valuations.

"The public will now be purchasing shares at an inflated price, based upon Twitter's pre-IPO fraudulent misrepresentations," the lawsuit said.

In a statement, Twitter Inc. said: "We've never had a relationship with these plaintiffs. Their claim is completely without merit."

The lawsuit said the financial firms took to the road looking for investors after a Twitter shareholder, GSV Asset Management Inc., claimed in March 2012 that it had negotiated a deal with Twitter to sell \$50 million to \$278 million worth of Twitter stock owned by employees, contractors and other stockholders. GSV Asset was not named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

In the 18-day international roadshow, 47 presentations were made in eight countries by GSV Asset and Continental Advisors while Precedo Capital made presentations to investors and 10 broker dealers in New York, Chicago, Florida, Virginia and Pennsylvania, the lawsuit said. After obtaining more than \$50 million in commitments at \$19 per share, Twitter blocked the sale nine days after the roadshow ended, causing the plaintiffs to lose millions of dollars in commissions, fees and expenses, besides damage to their reputations, the lawsuit said.

The firms said they were told that Twitter wanted to avoid a pitfall of Menlo Park, California-based Facebook Inc.'s initial public offering last year by removing an overhang of Twitter shares. □

## Delta jet lands at remote AK airport

RACHEL D'ORO  
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Delta Air Lines flight made an emergency landing in a remote Alaska community near the Aleutian Islands Wednesday morning after a warning message flashed on an engine control panel.

San Francisco-bound Flight 208 landed safely at Cold Bay at 6 a.m. with 167 passengers and 11 crew members on board, Delta spokesman Michael Thomas said.

The Boeing 767 made the

unscheduled landing after crew members received an engine warning message in the cockpit, according to Thomas.

"Because of that warning indication, out of an abundance of caution and safety they elected to divert to Cold Bay," he said. "But at no point was the engine shut down in flight."

No injuries were reported aboard the plane that had departed from Tokyo.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said the Delta crew declared an emergency

and headed to Cold Bay. Delta was sending another aircraft to pick up the passengers Wednesday afternoon from the treeless, wind-swept community of about 60 people. Delta also was sending maintenance crews to Cold Bay, which is 625 miles (1,000 kilometers) southwest of Anchorage. Cold Bay — on the Alaska Peninsula 40 miles (65 kilometers) from the start of the Aleutian Islands — was built up as a key World War II staging area and once had a military population of 30,000. □



This Oct. 30, 2013 photo shows a Delta Airlines plane on a runway, at right, that made an emergency landing in Cold Bay, Alaska.

(AP Photo/Jeff Doering)

## 6 shot dead in US domestic dispute

MITCH WEISS  
Associated Press

GREENWOOD, South Carolina (AP) — Bryan Sweatt was in the middle of a custody fight with his girlfriend over their 7-month-old daughter and facing a burglary charge that could put him in jail for years. His girlfriend's father had warned him to stay away from his house and the dirt track Sweatt had built in the backyard for his all-terrain vehicles.

Then on Tuesday afternoon, Sweatt broke into the

parents' house and waited for them and the girlfriend to come home, police said. When they did, Sweatt fatally shot his girlfriend, her parents and two children living there, before turning the gun on himself, Sheriff Tony Davis said.

Davis didn't specify a motive for the shootings, but said it appears they stemmed from a "domestic violence situation."

He said Sweatt felt that Chandra Fields wasn't allowing him to see their infant child often enough.

The girl was not among the dead.

He said that Sweatt had called police while he was in the Fields' house, stating that he was on the edge and contemplating suicide, before hanging up. It's unclear how many — if any — victims had been shot before he made the call at 5:54 p.m. Tuesday. A police report said a dispatcher heard a woman in the background say: "Do not point that at me" before the call was disconnected. □



## US budget deficit dips below \$1T

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — For the first time in five years, the U.S. government has run a budget deficit below \$1 trillion.

The government said Wednesday that the deficit for the 2013 budget year totaled \$680.3 billion, down from \$1.09 trillion in 2012.

That's the smallest imbalance since 2008, when the government ran a \$458.6 billion deficit.

It's still the fifth-largest deficit of all time.

The deficit is the gap between the government's tax revenue and its spending. It narrowed for the budget year that ended on Sept. 30 because revenue rose while spending fell. Revenue jumped 13.3 percent to \$2.77 trillion. Government spending declined 2.4 percent to \$3.45 trillion.

A stronger economy created more jobs and income over the past year, which generated greater tax revenue. At the same time, the Obama administration and Congress agreed in January to end a temporary cut in Social Security taxes and also to raise income taxes on the wealthy.

And spending fell in part because of across-the-board cuts that took effect in March.

The Obama administration and Republicans in Congress are now engaged in another battle over the budget and Obama's health insurance program. That led to a 16-day partial government shutdown this month. □

## US Financial Front:

## Fed leaves low interest-rate policies unchanged

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The

Federal Reserve says its low interest-rate policies are still needed to invigorate a subpar U.S. economy.

In a statement Wednesday after a policy meeting, the Fed said it would keep buying \$85 billion a month in bonds to keep long-term rates low and encourage borrowing and spending.

Yet the Fed seemed to signal that it thinks the economy is improving despite some recent weak data and uncertainties caused by the partial government shutdown.

The Fed no longer expresses concern, as it did in September, that higher mortgage rates could hold back hiring and economic growth. And its statement makes no reference to the 16-day shutdown, which economists say has slowed growth this quarter.

Some analysts said this suggests that the Fed might be prepared to slow its bond purchases by early next year — sooner than some have assumed.

"The tone was probably more positive on the outlook than most people expected," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said he was struck by the absence of any reference to the shutdown. He called the statement "remarkable for what it omits rather than includes." Ashworth said that if the Fed isn't worried about the economic impact of the shutdown, it might be ready to reduce its stimulus as early as December. He still thinks a pullback is most likely early

next year. But Ashworth said the Fed's statement suggests that its timing may have shifted. Some economists noted that Congress' budget fight has clouded

threatened default on its debt was averted, Congress passed only temporary fixes. More deadlines and possible disruptions lie ahead. Without a budget

ing after Feb. 7. If not, a market-rattling default will remain a threat. If the government manages to avert another shutdown in mid-January, Dana Saporta,



The decision of the Federal Reserve appears on a television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. The Fed says in a statement after a two-day policy meeting that it will keep buying \$85 billion a month in bonds to keep long-term interest rates low and encourage more borrowing and spending. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the Fed's timetable for tapering its bond purchases. Though the government reopened Oct. 17 and a

deal by Jan. 15, another shutdown is possible. Congress must also raise the government's debt ceil-

an economist at Credit Suisse, said, "We could see a taper as soon as the Jan. 29th meeting." □



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# Assad: support for armed groups must end

ALBERT AJI  
Associated Press  
DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad told the Arab League-U.N. envoy

Wednesday that foreign support for the armed opposition must end if any political solution to the country's conflict is to succeed, state-run media said.

Assad's comments to Lakhdar Brahimi during their meeting in Damascus cast further doubt on already sputtering efforts to convene an international

peace conference to try to end the country's civil war.

The United States, Russia and the United Nations have been trying for months to bring the Syrian government and the opposition together in Geneva to attempt to negotiate a political resolution to the conflict. After repeated delays, efforts renewed in earnest last month to organize the conference, but the Syrian opposition remains deeply divided over whether to attend, while the government refuses to sit down with the armed opposition.

Brahimi's trip to Damascus was the latest stop on a regional tour in recent days as he tries to lay the groundwork for the proposed peace talks in Geneva that are tentatively planned for next month. But Assad, whose government has regained the mo-

mentum in recent months in the conflict, showed little sign of inching toward compromise.

"For any political solution to be successful, it is crucial to halt support for terrorist groups and the countries that sponsor them, facilitate the entry of terrorist mercenaries and offer them money, weapons and logistical support," Assad was quoted by Al-Ikhbariya television as telling Brahimi. "The Syrian people alone are entitled to draw the future of Syria. Any solution must be approved by them and reflect their wishes away from any foreign intervention." "This is paramount to prepare the circumstances for dialogue and put clear mechanisms that achieve this goal," Assad said.

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are among the Syrian opposition's most active supporters, providing financial and logistical support to the rebels. The United States and some of its European allies have provided non-lethal aid, although Washington has promised for months to send light arms to Western-backed opposition fighters.

The meeting Wednesday between Brahimi and Assad was the first direct contact between the men in 10 months. After his last trip to Syria in December 2012, Brahimi angered Syrian authorities when he said that 40 years of rule by Assad's family was "too long." Syrian officials then accused him of being biased.

The diplomatic push aims to end a conflict that has killed more than 100,000 people and forced some 2 million more to flee the country. □



Syrian President Bashar Assad, right, speaks with U.N.-Arab League envoy for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, in Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. Assad told the Arab League-U.N. envoy Wednesday that foreign support for the armed opposition must end if any political solution to the country's conflict is to succeed, state-run media said.

(AP Photo/SANA)

## Police: 5 arrested in Tiananmen Gate attack

C. BODEEN  
Associated Press  
BEIJING (AP) — Police announced Wednesday the arrests of five people in connection with this week's suicide car crash in the heart of China's capital, calling it a planned terror attack — Beijing's first in recent history — and identifying the attackers as members of a Muslim minority. Police said the five suspects were detained the same day as the Monday noon attack at the Forbidden City gate across from Tiananmen Square, in the culturally and politically sensitive section of Beijing where China's Communist Party leaders live and work. A statement on the Beijing

police microblog said the perpetrators had also been identified as a man with an ethnic Uighur name, his wife and his mother. The five suspects arrested on suspicion of conspiring in the attack also were identified with typically Uighur names.

An attack in one of the eastern population centers is "something that the Chinese authorities have been worried about for a long time," said University of Michigan expert Philip Potter.

"Once this threshold has been crossed, it is a difficult thing to constrain," Potter said, predicting tighter surveillance and scrutiny of Uighurs in eastern cities.

All three attackers died when their vehicle exploded beneath the portrait of Mao Zedong hanging from Tiananmen Gate. Two tourists, including a Filipino woman, were killed by the vehicle as it sped down a crowded sidewalk, and 38 people were injured, including three Filipino citizens and a Japanese man. Knives, iron rods, gasoline and a flag imprinted with religious slogans were found in the vehicle, police said.

Uighurs (pronounced WEE-gur) are Muslim Turks native to the restive northwestern region of Xinjiang where extremists opposed to Chinese rule have been

battling security forces for years.

The statement said the five detained had helped plan and execute the attack, and were caught 10 hours after it was carried out. It said they had been on the run and were tracked down with the help of police in Xinjiang and elsewhere. It didn't say where they were captured, but said police had found jihadi flags and long knives inside their temporary lodgings.

"The initial understanding of the police is that the Oct. 28 incident is a case of a violent terrorist attack that was carefully planned, organized and plotted," the statement said. □



# 3 UK journalists plead guilty to phone hacking

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A prosecutor said Wednesday that there was "a conspiracy which involved a significant number of people" to hack phones at the Rupert Murdoch-owned News of the World, revealing that three senior journalists at the now-defunct newspaper have pleaded guilty to illegally eavesdropping on voicemails.

Opening the long-awaited hacking trial of former News of the World editors Rebekah Brooks, Andy Coulson and others, prosecution lawyer Andrew Edis said hacking and other illegal activity at the paper and its sister tabloid, The Sun, went on for a decade. He said it was inconceivable that the top executives didn't know about it. "They were in charge of the purse strings," Edis said, adding that they signed off on illicit payments.

"Mrs. Brooks personally approved nearly 40,000 pounds for stories" to a senior defense official, Edis said.

The long-awaited trial stems from the revelation in 2011 that employees at the News of the World tabloid eavesdropped on the phone voicemails of celebrities, politicians, crime victims and others in their search for exclusive stories. The scandal led Murdoch to shut the 168-year-old newspaper and spurred wide-ranging criminal investigations into phone hacking, bribery and other illegal behavior by the nation's newspapers.

It also has rattled the country's media, police and political establishments. Brooks and Coulson — once top aides to Murdoch and associates of Prime Minister David Cameron — are charged along with six others on a variety of counts related to phone

hacking, bribing officials and obstructing justice. All deny the charges.

Edis revealed that four others pleaded guilty before the trial began. Three worked at the News of the

in 2007, also pleaded guilty earlier this year to three new counts of conspiring to hack phones.

Edis said Mulcaire was paid about 100,000 pounds a year by the newspaper to

quired high-level approval." Thousands of pages of Mulcaire's notes containing details of alleged targets will form a key part of the prosecution case.

Prosecutors say the alleged hacking targets included supermodel Kate Moss, actress Joanna Lumley, royal family member Lord Frederick Windsor and Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, then private secretary to Prince William and Prince Harry.

Edis said the guilty pleas show "there was a conspiracy which involved a significant number of people and it was quite a substantial conspiracy."

The trial — which is not expected to end until Easter 2014 — was spawned by the revelation two years ago that the News of the World had hacked the mobile phone voicemails of kidnapped 13-year-old Milly Dowler, who was later found murdered. □



**Former News of the World editor Rebekah Brooks, center, along with her husband Charlie, right, arrives at Central Criminal Court in London.**  
(AP Photo/Leffleris Pitarakis)

World: Greg Miskiw, Neville Thurlbeck and James Weatherup, all former news desk editors.

Private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, who was convicted of phone hacking

hack the phones of celebrities, politicians and royals, and sometimes their friends and families.

He said it was "an extraordinary arrangement and one which must have re-



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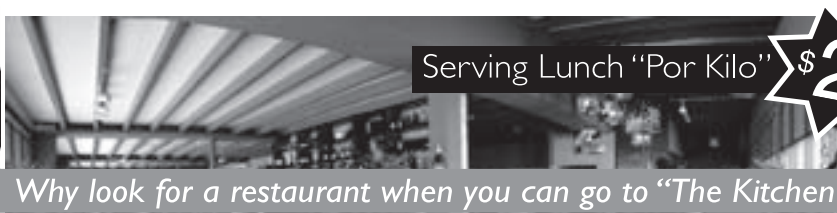
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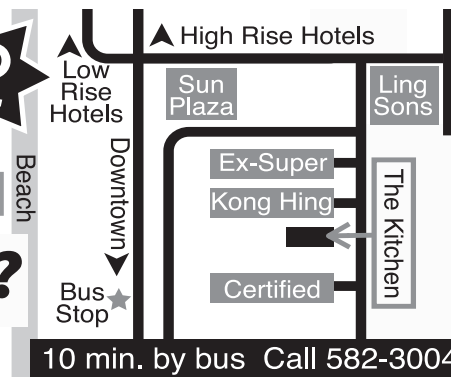


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## Bomber hits Tunisia resort, no others hurt

BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA  
PAUL SCHEMM

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — A suicide bomber and a teenager carrying a backpack loaded with explosives attacked two sites popular with tourists Wednesday, raising fears that Tunisia's Islamist extremists may be adopting more violent tactics.

No one was killed besides the suicide bomber, but with the Interior Ministry saying both men belonged to the same extremist group, the attacks could signal the adoption of more deadly tactics by Tunisia's Islamic extremists, including ones aimed at tourists.

Religious extremism has been growing here since Tunisians kicked off the Arab Spring in 2011 by overthrowing their authoritarian president.

In what may have been the first suicide attack in Tunisia since the 2002 truck bombing of a synagogue, hotel security guards stopped the bomber from entering the Riadh Palm hotel in Sousse, a resort city 90 miles (150 kilometers) south of the capital, Tunis, then chased him to a beach where he blew himself up, the Interior Ministry said.

The ministry said the bomber wore an explosive belt. The city is being searched for possible accomplices, ministry spokesman Mohammed Ali Aroui said. He later added that six suspects had been arrested for being possible accomplices.

In the foiled attack in nearby Monastir, an 18-year-old followed a group of tourists into the mausoleum of modern Tunisia's founder, Habib Bourguiba, carrying a backpack full of TNT. He

attempted to distract security by tossing a firework before being subdued, said Hicham Gharbi, a spokesman for the presidential guard, which patrols the site.

It was not immediately clear

targeting civilians and tourism.

"A few episodes alone don't necessarily make compelling evidence, but three episodes of this kind point in this direction," he said in an interview. "It was

his ouster in 2011, there has been a resurgence of political Islam, including moderates who won elections and hardliners known as Salafis.

The Salafis were tolerated by the new government



**Tunisian police officers secure the place where a suicide bomber blew himself up near a seaside hotel in Sousse, Tunisia, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. The attack was believed to be the country's first suicide bombing. Witnesses told Tunisian media that the suicide bomber appeared to be about to enter the Riadh Palm hotel in Sousse, about 90 miles (150 kilometers) south of the capital, Tunis, when there was an explosion. The Interior Ministry said that no one else was injured and no property was damaged. It said the bomber was a Tunisian man wearing an explosive belt.**

(AP Photo/Raghdha Jammali)

if the teen had planned a suicide attack of his own or just to plant the explosives. "He will be questioned to learn his motives and those who ordered the attack," Gharbi told local radio. Bourguiba, Tunisia's first post-independence president, was a fierce secularist and has long been criticized by hard-line Islamists. Riccardo Fabiani, the North Africa analyst for the Eurasia Group said that, coupled with a failed car bomb a few days ago, Wednesday's attacks suggest the start of a new campaign

also inevitable to an extent that this would happen sooner or later, if you consider the news over the past few months."

His analysis was echoed by Mokhtar Ben Nasr, the former spokesman for the military, who said the attacks were designed to harm the tourist industry and distract security forces from their efforts to root out militants based in the hinterlands.

When he was president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali ruthlessly suppressed overt expressions of religion. Since

led by the moderate Islamist Ennahda Party. But that changed when they began challenging policies they deemed insufficiently Islamic, resulting in increased confrontations between them over the past year.

That culminated in the main Salafi group, Ansar al-Shariah, being named a terrorist movement in September.

Previously, al-Qaida and other organizations had classified Tunisia as place to carry out preaching, not attacks. □

## Iran denies halt to 20% uranium enrichment

THOMAS ERDBRINK

© 2013 New York Times

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran has never stopped 20 percent uranium enrichment, Iran's top nuclear official said Wednesday, contradicting an influential lawmaker who last week said the country had voluntarily halted its production.

"Twenty percent uranium and nuclear plates are being produced inside the country and there has never been a halt in the production trend," Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, was quoted as saying by the Icana news agency, which is the mouthpiece of Iran's Parliament.

Iran has a stockpile of nearly 300 kilograms of uranium enriched up to 20 percent, which it says is needed to power a reactor in Tehran, but analysts say Iran has produced enough fuel to last years.

Last week Hossein Naqavi Hosseini, a lawmaker who is the deputy head of the national security and foreign policy committee, announced that the country had stopped enriching uranium up to 20 percent, telling Icana that "the site has the required fuel at the moment and there is no need for more production."

The remarks by Hosseini were seen as a possible indication that Iran was willing to compromise over its enriched uranium stockpile in negotiations with the big powers over the country's disputed nuclear program, which the West says is a guise for reaching the capability to make nuclear weapons. Iran says its activities are purely peaceful.



UK:

## Queen approves press regulation rules

SYLVIA HUI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday signed off on new press regulation rules developed in the wake of Britain's phone hacking scandal, after a court rejected last-ditch attempts by the country's publishers to block the measures.

But the approval of the new charter by the queen and all three of Britain's major political parties does not resolve a bitter national debate about media regulation. Many journalists are deeply opposed to the plans, and the press will be free to sign up or stay out-

side of the new regulation framework.

The new charter is expected to create a body which would subject Britain's newspapers and magazines to a government-backed watchdog intended to curb the abuses uncovered by the hacking scandal, which revealed that journalists at the Rupert Murdoch-owned News of the World and other papers illegally listened in on the phone voicemails of public figures and crime victims.

Many in the media argue that the supposedly independent body could be abused by politicians to

punish publications they don't like. They also say that their alternative proposals were unfairly dismissed.

Journalists have been fighting a rear-guard action to avoid regulation, and on Wednesday publishers went to the High Court and then the Court of Appeal to block government action. Both courts rejected the publishers' attempts to seek judicial review and an injunction.

The defeat is unlikely to be final. Several publications have already threatened to boycott the new body, and some talk of taking the fight to the European Court of Human Rights. □



Newspapers and magazines are displayed on sale at a stand in London, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. Britain's press is going to court in a bid to stop the imposition of new rules developed after the country's phone hacking scandal. Officials are working to create a body which would subject Britain's newspapers and magazines to a government-backed watchdog insulated from media owners and publishers.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

## Lawmaker decries standards for English jam

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British politician is in a jam over new rules on fruity spreads, saying her country's plan to lower the minimum sugar content of the breakfast staple threatens to turn a much-loved treat into "gooey sludge."

Traditional British rules say a product should be at least 60 percent sugar before it can be called jam. However England is lowering the minimum to 50 percent so that U.K. farmers can better market their fruit spreads abroad.

That worries lawmaker Tes-

sa Munt, who told the BBC Wednesday that loosening the standards threatened the very institution of the British breakfast — a hearty meal typically served with sausage, egg, beans, tomato, and toast.

"I think this is going to be the end of the British breakfast as we know it," she told the broadcaster. "If these regulations change, we'll end up with something much more like the French and German product — and worse still the Americans — where they have things a bit like a fruit butter or a fruit spread. It's dull colors that don't taste the

same and they certainly don't last as long."

British food historian Laura Mason acknowledged that spreads with lower sugar content tends to have less of a gel texture than the jams traditionally favored by Brits, but said that Munt was "overdoing it."

Low-sugar fruit spreads have been available on British supermarket shelves for years, she said. She wouldn't be drawn on Munt's criticism of American fruit spreads, but she said that France's answer to English jams — confiture — is "very nice." □

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## US fugitive caught sailing in St. Croix

**ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)** — A California businessman who left the United States before he was indicted on fraud charges has been arrested on a sailboat in the U.S. Virgin Islands, officials said Wednesday.

Federal agents arrested Didier DeNier as he made a stopover in St. Croix on his catamaran, "Bohemian Rhapsody," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron May. DeNier is being held on charges issued by a Southern California grand jury in February 2012 that include wire fraud and conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government.

The 63-year-old was CEO of Powerline, Inc., a company based in Simi Valley, California, that had a contract to provide batteries to the Department of Defense from 2004 to 2011, according to the indictment.

He is accused of shipping cheaper, poorer-quality batteries and disguising them as the models specified by the contracts.

The batteries were used in radios, laptops and back-up power supplies and there is no evidence that any lives were lost as a result of the alleged fraud, said May, a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles.

The indictment does not specify the amount of the contracts.

DeNier's wife, Lisa, the company's vice president of sales, has pleaded guilty to the charges and is awaiting sentencing.

Authorities believe DeNier has been living on his sailboat, May said.

He was arrested Tuesday by the Defense Criminal Investigative Services and was scheduled to appear in court Friday to begin extradition proceedings.

A court-appointed public defender, Gabriel Villegas, declined comment.

The wire fraud charge alone carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. □

## Mexico: 5,000 evacuated for gasoline pipeline leak

**MARK STEVENSON**  
**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — A geyser of gasoline spewed into the sky from a state-owned pipeline in western Mexico, forcing officials to evacuate about 5,000 people Wednesday. Authorities blamed the acci-

The fuel did not catch fire, and crews were able to shut down the flow of gasoline in the pipeline, which was leaking about 150 years (meters) from some homes. There were no reports of injuries.

"There's a lot of odor of gasoline in the entire

known as Pemex, wrote that the leak "was caused by a clandestine tap."

Emergency personnel erected a sand-bag barrier around the leak to contain the gasoline and prevent it from contaminating more soil or entering storm drains. In 1992, gasoline

the leak and reduce pressure. Jalisco Gov. Aristoteles Sandoval said later that the leak "is now 100 percent controlled."

"This was due to a fuel robbery, and we are going to go after the thieves" Sandoval said. "We have already detained several organized gangs" and "are calling on the public not to buy stolen gasoline, not to buy gasoline outside official gas stations."

On some Mexican highways, vendors known as "huachicoleros" stand under palm-frond shacks selling stolen gasoline or diesel to passing motorists.

"Clearly, organized crime is behind this," Sandoval said of the latest incident. He said investigators had found fuel containers in a nearby abandoned house. Pemex has suffered a huge problem with illegal taps drilled into fuel pipelines. In July, the company said 1,421 illegal fuel taps were discovered in the first six months of this year, almost twice the 722 taps uncovered in the same period of 2012.

Experts say that given the skill and timing required to tap into high-pressure pipelines, it is likely thieves are getting advice and inside information, if not outright help, from people inside the company. □



**An army soldier patrols a neighborhood after authorities ordered thousands to evacuate their homes when a gasoline pipeline burst spewing a large geyser of fuel into the air in Tlajomulco, Mexico, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. According to Mexico's state-owned oil company Pemex, the leak was caused by a clandestine tap. (AP Photo/Refugio Ruiz)**

dent on fuel thieves tapping into the pipe.

Gasoline plumed above a field close to a housing development in Tlajomulco, a town near Guadalajara, which is Mexico's second-largest city and the capital of Jalisco state.

area," Jalisco state Interior Secretary Arturo Zamora said, adding that the evacuation area was "approximately in a radius of 1 kilometer (half mile)."

On its Twitter account, the state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos oil company,

leaked into Guadalajara's drains and ignited, effectively creating a bomb 6 miles (10 kilometers) long that demolished 1,000 homes and killed at least 210 people.

Pemex said it closed the nearest valves to isolate

## Turks and Caicos' AG resigns in feud with premier

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — The attorney general of the Turks and Caicos Islands has submitted his resignation following a feud with the premier of the British territory, officials announced Wednesday. Huw Shephard has been overseeing a lengthy investigation into corruption on the island, which was put under three years of direct rule from Britain starting in 2009 after a commission found systematic corruption.

He was appointed in 2010 by the island's governor, who in turn is appointed by the queen of England. But

Shephard has clashed repeatedly with Premier Rufus Ewing, who was elected when home rule returned in 2012 and does not control the attorney general's post.

Ewing has accused Shephard of incompetence and unchecked spending. Shephard said in a statement that he will bring legal action for damage to his reputation and other charges.

Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson, leader of the opposition People's Democratic Movement party, said in a phone interview that she had hoped the issue would be resolved amicably.

"This is not a positive step

for the country at this time," she said.

"The Turks and Caicos is going through a very difficult time already. To add this to it ... it costs us not just our reputation, but it costs us financially."

The office of Gov. Peter Beckingham declined comment except to say the corruption probe will continue and that officials will soon find a new attorney general. Shephard's resignation becomes effective on Friday.

The announcement comes just a couple of months after the governor extended Shephard's contract to September 2016 over protests by Ewing and other

politicians.

In a statement earlier this month, Ewing said he was not satisfied with Shephard's performance.

"We as a Government are being asked to cut expenditure and finding it difficult to provide funding for scholarships for our children, to provide adequate space in our schools and to create jobs for our people, whilst expenditure in the areas of the attorney general's responsibility goes unchecked," Ewing said.

The feud developed as the British territory seized money and property that officials say were improperly obtained by corrupt politicians. □





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## Aruban Youth Artwork Project installed at Cruise Ship Port!



**ORANJESTAD** - As Diamonds International continues with their multi-million dollar renovation of the Port of Call mall, they are making all efforts to keep up the appearance of the building and mask their construction site. The latest efforts showcase a project that was developed together with our young community. Diamonds International sponsored four schools to create a gallery of artwork, providing a sunny wel-



come to all visitors entering through the port – and thus masking the area at the back of their building which is under construction. The brief for the project was to paint a mural that represents Aruba. The children and teachers from Reina Beatrix Basisschool, Prinses Amalia Basisschool, St. Franciscus College and St. Dominicus College did a truly impressive job – including all of the highlights

that make Aruba unique, Hooiberg, Cascabel, Shoco, Cave-paintings, Bushi Cactus, Yuwana, Divi Tree and the California Lighthouse to name but a few. General Manager of Diamonds International, Keisha Williams comments "The gallery looks absolutely wonderful, and truly contributes to the tourist experience of Aruba – We would like to say a big thank you to the young creative talents and their teachers who worked hard on this fantastic project" The Young Aruban Artwork Project has been installed opposite Gate A of the Cruise Ship Port, and is accessible to the public at all times.





# A Perfect Match: Amadeus adopts Amadeus!



**PALM BEACH** - Almost five years ago, popular restaurant Amadeus opened its doors just a few hundred yards from the traffic circle at Tanki Leendert. Because the restaurant is owned by Austrian chef Thomas Mitter, he named it Amadeus

after the famous Austrian composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Even the interior decoration reflects the era and the ground floor is a copy of a room where Mozart performed in Vienna. The dishes, however, are modern fortunately,

with of course the Austrian 'Wiener Schnitzel' playing a starring role in the menu; it is called Mozart's Surf & Turf. Six months ago a baby donkey was born at the sanctuary, bearing the name Amadeus. So when

management and staff of the restaurant with the same name heard about that, they all came to visit their namesake. During this spontaneous visit, the entire Amadeus team decided to adopt Amadeus. Of course he will stay at the sanctuary, where he is having a

great time, by the way, but Restaurant Amadeus pays for its keep with a monthly donation. Amadeus is one lucky donkey as the chef gets him lots of fresh carrots! Photo shows Mr. and Mrs. Mitter with 'their' Amadeus. □

## FLORA & FAUNA



**PALM BEACH** - Bananaquits build nests with side entrance holes. Several nests may be built, with some used only as sleeping quarters. Its nickname, the sugar bird, in Aruba is "Barika Heel". It uses its sharp beak to pierce a flower from the side, taking the nectar without actually pollinating the plant. Typically a very sociable bird, bananaquits are often solitary or in pairs; larger groups occur where flowers or sugar is abundant in supply. Also occasionally found in mixed flocks with birds such as warblers in forest. They are polygamous, diurnal and do not exhibit any territorialism. Males court females without challenging or acting aggressively towards other males. Males and females build individual nests and roost singly. They are frequent visitors to

sugar-water feeders in and around human settlements and as a result, they eventually become tame. Bananaquits often build their nests near wasp nests for protection against predators. After the female lays her eggs, the male spends much of his time near the nest, protecting her as she incubates. The female also protects her hatchlings from other bananaquits and nest predators, until they are ready to leave the nest. Common predators include larger bird species, rats, snakes and ants. If approached, the bananaquit wards off enemies with rapid wing vibrations. Alternatively, it pecks at its opponent and flies down to the ground to resume a fight. At times however, they do not resist or protest nest intruders but rather fly away quietly. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

**Jennifer Smith**

Has been coming to Aruba since 1995 and has a timeshare at The Divi Village. She loves Aruba for the wonderful people, and it's beaches.

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this Thursday, October 31, 2013. By the way, The Cove is open from 12 noon to serve delicious lunch at unbelievable prices during our regular bingo event until morning hours. The action continues with the World Series baseball game on big screen. Our own Xander Bogaerts is playing for Boston Red Sox and

enjoy with your friends with a bucket of beer for the ridiculous price of only \$13. Remember to pass by The Shops At Alhambra for the Midweek Shopping and receive discount prices for you and your friends. So we see you this coming Thursday at Alhambra Casino for our big Halloween event. ☐



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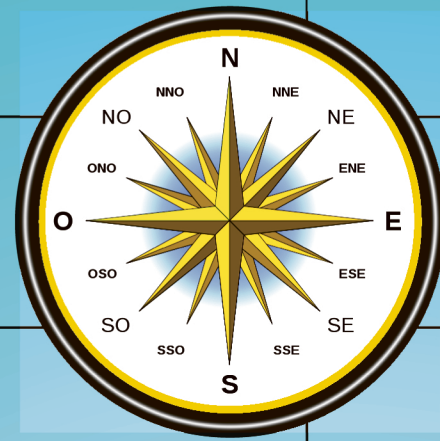
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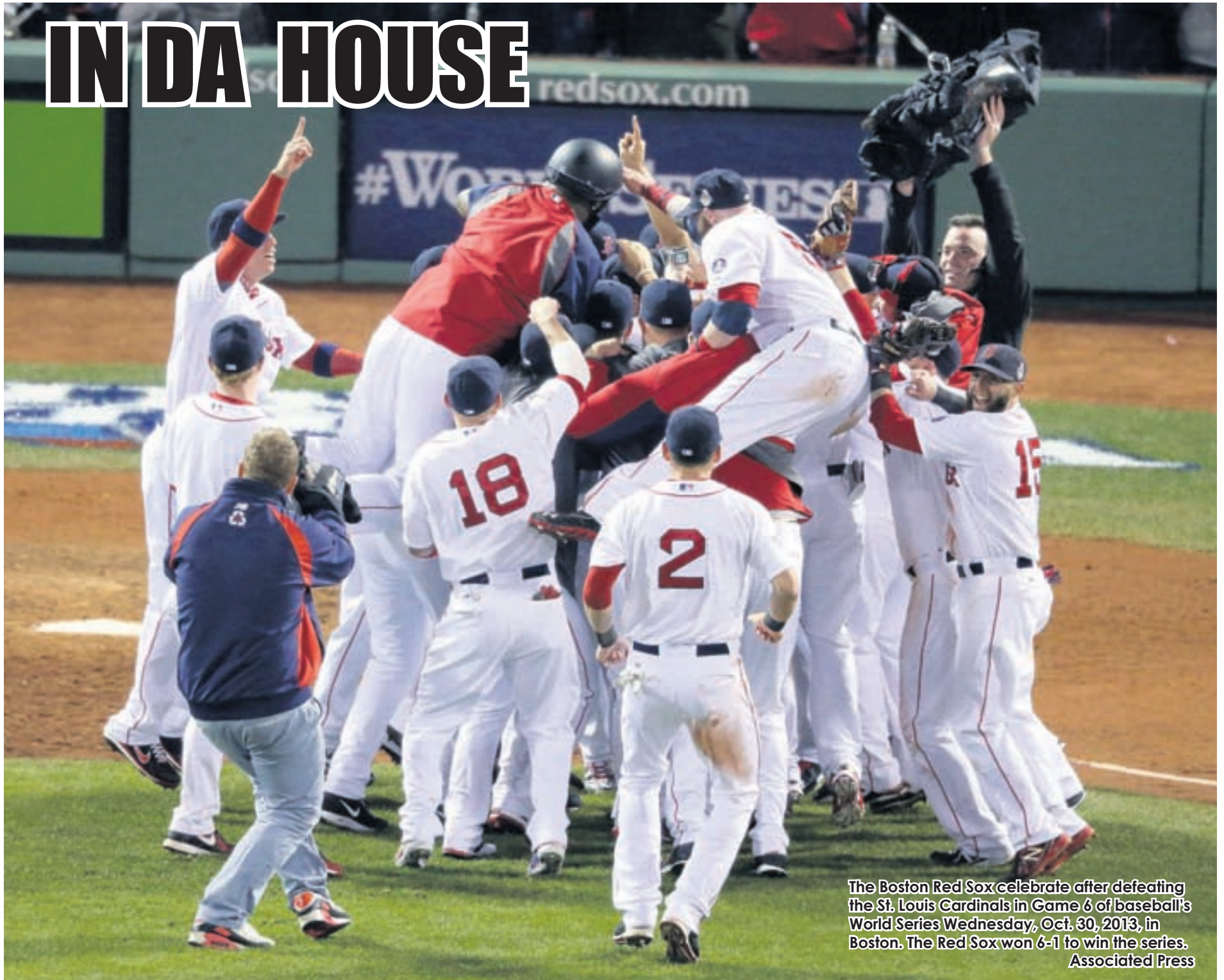


# Aruba



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right of way
  - Stop. Right of way ahead
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  - No Right turn





The Boston Red Sox celebrate after defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 6 of baseball's World Series Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, in Boston. The Red Sox won 6-1 to win the series. Associated Press

## Red Sox win World Series title at Fenway Park

**RONALD BLUM**  
AP Sports Writer

**BOSTON (AP)** — David Ortiz and the Boston Red Sox capped their remarkable turnaround by beating the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 in Game 6 on Wednesday night to win their third World Series championship in 10 seasons, clinching at Fenway Park for the first time since 1918.

There hasn't been a party like this in New England for

nearly a century.

Turmoil to triumph. Worst to first.

Shane Victorino, symbolic of these resilient Sox, returned from a stiff back and got Boston rolling with a three-run double off the Green Monster against rookie sensation Michael Wacha.

John Lackey became the first pitcher to start and win a Series clincher for two different teams, allowing one

run over 6 2-3 innings 11 years after his Game 7 victory as an Angels rookie in 2002.

With fans roaring on every pitch and cameras flashing, Koji Uehara struck out Matt Carpenter for the final out.

The Japanese pitcher jumped into the arms of catcher David Ross while Red Sox players rushed from the dugout and bullpen as the Boston theme

"Dirty Water" played on the public-address system.

And the Red Sox didn't have to fly the trophy home.

For the first time since Babe Ruth's team back in 1918, Boston won the title at Fenway Park. The 101-year-old ballpark, oldest in the majors, was packed with 38,447 singing, shouting fans anticipating a celebration 95 years in the making.

There wasn't the cowboy-up comeback charm of "The Idiots" from 2004, who swept St. Louis to end an 86-year title drought. There wasn't that cool efficiency of the 2007 team that swept Colorado.

This time, they were Boston Strong — playing for a city shaken by the marathon bombings in April.

**Continued on page 21**



## NBA Capsules

# Heat get rings, then hold off Bulls 107-95

The Associated Press  
MIAMI (AP) — Shane Battier went 4 for 4 from 3-point range, including a critical one from the right corner with 1:33 remaining, and Miami wasted most a 25-point lead before holding off Derrick Rose and Chicago 107-95 on Tuesday in the NBA season-opener for both teams. LeBron James scored 17 points for Miami, which got its 2013 NBA championship rings in a pregame ceremony. The Heat trailed 9-2 early, then outscored Chicago 52-24 over the remainder of the first half. Rose finished with 12 points on 4-of-15 shooting in 34 minutes in his first game since a serious knee injury in April 2012. Carlos Boozer had 31 points and seven rebounds for Chicago, which got within eight points in the final minutes.

Chris Bosh scored 16 points,

Battier finished with 14 and Dwyane Wade and Mario Chalmers each had 13 for Miami, which had seven players score in double figures.

### PACERS 97, MAGIC 87

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Paul George scored 24 points, and Roy Hibbert added 16 rebounds and seven blocks to lead Indiana.

George's buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter gave Indiana a 69-64 lead and sparked the decisive 17-4 run to open the fourth.

Hibbert nearly matched his career-high for rebounds (17) in the first half. He had eight points but left the game midway through the fourth quarter after injuring his knee in a spill underneath his own basket. Team officials said it was not serious and he could have returned.

Victor Oladipo, the No. 2 pick in the 2013 NBA draft, had 12 points and three turnovers for the Magic.

### LAKERS 116, CLIPPERS 103

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Xavier Henry scored a career-high 22 points and Jordan Farmar added 16 as the Lakers relied on reserves to surge past the Clippers in the fourth quarter.

With injured Kobe Bryant watching on the Lakers' bench, Jodie Meeks scored nine of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Lakers stunned their Staples



After blocking a shot by Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose (1), Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) falls to the court during the second half of a NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013. The Heat won 107-95.

Associated Press

Center rivals in Clippers coach Doc Rivers' debut. Henry scored 12 points in the fourth quarter while leading a decisive 28-8 run. Blake Griffin scored 19 points and Chris Paul had 15 points and 11 assists for the Clippers, who beat the

Lakers four times last season on the way to their first Pacific Division title. DeAndre Jordan added 17 points and 11 rebounds. The Lakers improved to 42-24 on opening night, the best winning percentage in NBA history. □

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# Molina wins 6th straight Gold Glove in MLB

MIKE FITZPATRICK  
AP Sports Writer

St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina has won his sixth straight Gold Glove award, making him one of four players in the World Series rewarded for superior defense this season.

Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia and right fielder Shane Victorino also were honored Tuesday, along with Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright.

Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado became the 10th rookie to win a Gold Glove and first since outfielder Ichiro Suzuki in 2001. Atlanta shortstop Andrelton Simmons and Baltimore third baseman Manny Machado also were among the eight first-time recipients.

Baltimore and Kansas City had three winners apiece, tied for the most of any team. Baltimore finished with the fewest errors in Major League Baseball (54) and set a league record with a

.991 fielding percentage.

Kansas City left fielder Alex Gordon took his third Gold Glove in a row, while first baseman Eric Hosmer and catcher Salvador Perez each received their first.

his fourth, and Diamondbacks first baseman Paul Goldschmidt, his first. Managers and coaches vote for players in their respective leagues but cannot choose any on their own teams. □



St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina tags out Boston Red Sox's David Ross at home during the seventh inning of Game 5 of baseball's World Series Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, in St. Louis. Ross tried to score from second on a hit by Jacoby Ellsbury.

Associated Press

Baltimore shortstop J.J. Hardy and center fielder Adam Jones were also repeat winners, as was Rockies left fielder Carlos Gonzalez.

Center fielder Carlos Gomez became the first Gold Glove winner for the Milwaukee Brewers since shortstop Robin Yount in 1982, ending the longest drought for any team in the 57-year history of the award.

Toronto knuckleballer R.A. Dickey was the winner among American League pitchers.

Arizona's Gerardo Parra won in right field after taking the National League honors in left two years ago.

Other recipients in the NL were Cincinnati second baseman Brandon Phillips,

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## World Series

Continued from page 18

After late-season slumps in 2010 and 2011, the embarrassing revelations of a chicken-and-beer clubhouse culture that contributed to the ouster of manager Terry Francona, and the daily tumult of Bobby Valentine's one-year flop, these Red Sox grew on fans.

Game 6, sending Wacha's first pitch of the fourth into the right-center bullpen.

By the time the inning was over, RBI singles by Mike Napoli and Victorino had made it 6-0, and the Red Sox were on their way.

The win capped an emotional season for the Red Sox, one heavy with the memory of the events that unfolded on Patriots Day, when three people were killed and more than 260 wounded in bombing at-

Junichi Tazawa came in with the bases loaded and retired Allen Craig on an inning-ending grounder to first. Brandon Workman followed in the eighth and Uehara finished.

St. Louis had been seeking its second title in three seasons, but the Cardinals sputtered. Symbolic of the team's struggles, reliever Trevor Rosenthal tripped while throwing a pitch to Ortiz in the eighth, balking Dustin Pedroia to second.

tionally walked, Napoli struck out and Gomes was hit above the left elbow with a pitch, loading the bases.

Victorino, wearing red, white and blue spikes with an American flag motif, had been 0 for 10 in the Series and missed the previous two games with a bad back.

Dropped from second to sixth in the batting order, he took two balls and a called

strike, then turned on a 93 mph fastball and sent it high off the Green Monster, the 37-foot-high wall in left. Gomes slid home as Yadier Molina took Matt Holli-

day's one-hop throw and applied the tag, then argued with plate umpire Jim Joyce. Victorino, pumped with emotion, went to third on the throw and pounded his chest with both fists three times. □



**Boston Red Sox right fielder Shane Victorino and St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina (4) watch Victorino's RBI single during the fourth inning of Game 6 of baseball's World Series Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, in Boston.**

Associated Press

Just like the long whiskers on the players' faces, starting with Jonny Gomes' scruffy spring training beard.

Across the Northeast, from Connecticut's Housatonic River up to the Aroostook in Maine, Boston's eighth championship will be remembered for all the beard-yanking bonding. Ortiz, the only player remaining from the 2004 champs, had a Ruthian World Series. He batted .688 (11 for 16) with two homers, six RBIs and eight walks — including four in the finale — for a .760 on-base percentage in 25 plate appearances.

Even slumping Stephen Drew delivered a big hit in

tacks at the Boston Marathon. The Red Sox wore "Boston Strong" logos on their left sleeves and erected a large emblem on the Green Monster as a constant reminder.

A "B Strong" logo was mowed into center-field grass at Fenway.

Among the players blamed for the indifferent culture at the end of the Francona years, Lackey took the mound two days shy of the second anniversary of his elbow surgery and got his first Series win since the 2002 clincher. He pitched shutout ball into the seventh, when Carlos Beltran's RBI single ended the Cardinals' slump with runners in scoring position at 0 for 14.

Pedroia had brought back memories of Carlton Fisk's 1975 Game 6-winning home run, sending a first-inning drive about 10 feet foul of the Green Monster foul pole — and waving his left arm once to try to urge the ball fair as he came out of the batter's box.

Lackey escaped a two-on, none-out jam in the second when he retired Matt Adams and David Freese on flyouts and, after a wild pitch, struck out Jon Jay. Boston wasted a similar threat in the bottom half, then went ahead on the third.

Jacoby Ellsbury singled leading off and went to second on Pedroia's grounder. Ortiz was inten-



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## NHL Capsules

# Jagr sets NHL record with 119th game-winning goal

The Associated Press  
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Jaromir Jagr became the NHL's leader in game-winning goals after scoring on a second-period breakaway to give the New Jersey Devils a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Tuesday. The 684th goal of Jagr's 20-year NHL career, gave him 119 game-winners, putting him one ahead of NHL Hall of Famer Phil Esposito.

Adam Henrique also scored and Martin Brodeur made 16 saves as the Devils won consecutive games for the first time this season and ended Tampa Bay's three-game winning streak.

Steven Stamkos, who had three goals and four assists last week, scored a power-play goal for Tampa Bay, which had won five of six in posting the best record in the Eastern Conference.

New Jersey, which lost its first seven games of the season, rallied late to beat Boston on Saturday for its second win.



**Montreal Canadiens right wing Brian Gionta (21) runs into Dallas Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen (32) and defenseman Trevor Daley (6) during the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, in Montreal.**

Associated Press

BLUES 3, JETS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alexander Steen scored a power-play goal with 59.4 seconds left to break a tie and Jaroslav

Halak made 21 saves to lead the Blues to a win over the Jets.

The Blues, who won their second in a row, have re-

corded points in five successive games. Winnipeg has lost five of six.

Halak improved to 7-1-1 on the season. He is 5-2 life-

time in seven starts against Winnipeg.

Brenden Morrow and Alex Pietrangolo also scored for the Blues, who improved to 5-1-1 at home. Bryan Little and Blake Wheeler tallied for the Jets.

BLACKHAWKS 6,  
SENATORS 5

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews had three goals and an assist and Corey Crawford made 14 saves in relief of an ineffective Nikolai Khabibulin as the Blackhawks beat the Senators.

Andrew Shaw scored twice and Marian Hossa had a goal and two assists for the Blackhawks, who trailed 4-2 with 8:46 left in the second period.

It was Hossa's 100th goal with Chicago and No. 439 for his career.

The Senators scored three times in a span of four shots in the second, but were unable to hold off the suddenly high-scoring Blackhawks.

Kyle Turris and Milan Michalek each had a goal and an assist in Ottawa's fourth loss in five games. □



**Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after defeating South Africa's Kevin Anderson, during their second round match, at the Paris Masters tennis, in the Paris Bercy stadium, Wednesday Oct. 30, 2013.**

Associated Press

TRUNG LATIEULE

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Top-seeded Rafael Nadal didn't play his best tennis Wednesday but still found a way to reach the third round of the Paris Masters, while

## Federer beats Anderson at Paris Masters

Roger Federer qualified for the ATP Finals for a 12th straight year.

Nadal beat Marcel Granollers 7-5, 7-5 in an all-Spanish meeting and Federer defeated Kevin Anderson of South Africa 6-4, 6-4.

"I didn't play well tonight," Nadal said. "Something that can happen after two weeks without playing and after a long time without playing on this kind of surface."

Nadal broke for a 6-5 lead in each set and clinched the victory when Granollers sent a forehand wide. The match stats pointed to a narrow margin of victory, with Nadal hitting 20 winners to 15 for Granollers and making 23 unforced errors compared to 22 for his opponent.

"The rhythm of my legs tonight was poor," Nadal

said. "I'm slower than usual, and a lot of mistakes, easy mistakes."

Nadal was playing at the Paris Masters for the first time since 2009. He missed the tournament for the past three years because of injuries or fatigue.

"The victories in days that you are not playing well have much more value than the victories on days that you play well," Nadal said. The U.S. Open champion is seeking a record sixth Masters title in a single season. He will next play last year's runner-up, Jerzy Janowicz of Poland.

Nadal unseated Novak Djokovic atop the rankings by reaching the final of the China Open in October. He now has a 30-2 record on hard courts this year.

Federer has had a rough season by his own high

standards, losing in the second round at Wimbledon and in the fourth round at the U.S. Open to drop to No. 6 in the rankings.

Anderson shanked a forehand to drop serve in the opening game and Federer hit a forehand winner to take the first set.

The fifth-seeded Swiss then took a 5-1 lead in the second set and held off a late charge from Anderson to clinch the victory when the South African's backhand sailed wide.

Defending champion David Ferrer, Juan Martin del Potro and Stanislas Wawrinka also moved into the third round.

Ferrer of Spain overcame Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic 6-0, 2-6, 6-3, and Del Potro beat Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Cilic was playing only his

second match since the end of his four-month ban for a positive doping test, while del Potro entered the Paris Masters following titles at the Swiss Indoors and Japan Open, plus a runner-up finish at the Shanghai Masters.

Del Potro capitalized on a backhand error from Cilic to break for 5-4 in the opening set. The fourth-seeded Argentine then took a 6-2 lead in the tiebreaker and clinched the victory on another backhand error from Cilic.

Meanwhile, Wawrinka defeated Feliciano Lopez of Spain 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to stay in the race for the two remaining ATP Finals spots. In the final set, the seventh-seeded Swiss broke Lopez in the second game and did not face any break points. □



# Report: NSA broke into Yahoo, Google data centers

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Security Agency has secretly broken into the main communications links that connect Yahoo and Google data centers around the world, the Washington Post reported Wednesday, citing documents obtained from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

A secret accounting dated Jan. 9, 2013, indicates that NSA sends millions of records every day from Yahoo and Google internal networks to data warehouses at the agency's Fort Meade, Maryland, headquarters. In the last 30 days, field collectors had processed and sent back more than 180 million new records — ranging from "metadata," which would indicate who sent or received emails and when, to content such as text, audio and video, the Post reported Wednesday on its website.

The new details about the NSA's access to Yahoo and Google data centers around the world come at a time when Congress is reconsidering the government's collection practices and authority, and as European governments are responding angrily to revelations that the NSA

collected data on millions of communications in their countries. Details about the government's programs have been trickling out since Snowden shared documents with the Post and Guardian newspaper in June.

The NSA's principal tool to exploit the Google and Yahoo data links is a project called MUSCULAR, operated jointly with the agency's British counterpart, GCHQ. The Post said NSA and GCHQ are copying entire data flows across fiber-optic cables that carry information between the data centers of the Silicon Valley giants.

The NSA has a separate data-gathering program, called PRISM, which uses a court order to compel Yahoo, Google and other Internet companies to provide certain data. It allows the NSA to reach into the companies' data streams and grab emails, video chats, pictures and more. U.S. officials have said the program is narrowly focused on foreign targets, and technology companies say they turn over information only if required by court order.

In an interview with Bloomberg News Wednesday, NSA Director Gen. Keith Alexander was asked if the NSA has infiltrated Yahoo



This undated photo provided by Google shows a Google data center in Hamina, Finland.

Associated Press

and Google databases, as detailed in the Post story.

"Not to my knowledge," said Alexander. "We are not authorized to go into a U.S. company's servers and take data. We'd have to go through a court process for doing that."

It was not clear, however, whether Alexander had any immediate knowledge of the latest disclosure in the Post report.

Instead, he appeared to speak more about the PRISM program and its legal parameters.

In a separate statement,

NSA spokeswoman Vanee Vines said NSA has "multiple authorities" to accomplish its mission, and she said "the assertion that we collect vast quantities of U.S. persons' data from this type of collection is also not true."

The GCHQ had no comment on the matter.

The Post said the NSA was breaking into data centers worldwide. The NSA has far looser restrictions on what it can collect outside the United States on foreigners. But Google said the company has "long been con-

cerned about the possibility of this kind of snooping."

The statement said Google is "troubled by allegations of the government intercepting traffic between our data centers, and we are not aware of this activity." Google, which is known for its data security, noted that it has been trying to extend encryption across more and more Google services and links.

Yahoo spokeswoman Sarah Meron said there are strict controls in place to protect the security of the company's data centers. □

## Lenovo hires Kutcher to design, pitch new tablet

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Computer-maker Lenovo has hired tech-savvy actor Ashton Kutcher to help design and pitch its latest line of tablets, dubbing the Hollywood star a "product engineer" who can bring his ideas along with his image. It's the latest tech foray for the "Two and a Half Men" performer who recently starred in a biopic about innovative giant Steve Jobs and has invested venture capital in more than a dozen Silicon Valley startups. The deal was announced

Tuesday at a Lenovo live-streamed event in Los Angeles. Lenovo's first video advertisements for the new Yoga Tablet feature Kutcher acting as a product tester in his boxers, a spacesuit and aboard an airplane.

The company said Kutcher will do more than just advertise.

"This partnership goes beyond traditional bounds by deeply integrating him into our organization as a product engineer as we look at developing the next wave of products," said Lenovo spokesman David Roman.

Kutcher — who in recent years has appeared in ads for snack chips and cameras — said of Lenovo, "Entrepreneurship is part of their DNA, and I couldn't ask for a better fit."

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Lenovo, with headquarters in Beijing and in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, acquired IBM's computer business in 2005 and became the world's top PC-maker ahead of HP in the third quarter. But, like other manufacturers, it has struggled with waning con-



In this Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, file photo, American actor Ashton Kutcher, who portrays Apple's Steve Jobs in the film "Jobs," smiles at a promotional event hosted by the Macworld iWorld expo in Beijing, China.

Associated Press

sumer demand for desktop and laptop models.

It's one of several Asian tech companies seeking

to loosen Apple's grip on China's tablet market with less expensive Android models. □



# Stocks slide after Fed says US still needs support

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The stock market retreated from all-time highs Wednesday after the Federal Reserve said the U.S. economy still needed help from its stimulus program.

In its latest policy statement, the nation's central bank said it will continue buying \$85 billion in bonds every month and keep its benchmark short-term interest rate near zero.

The bond purchases are designed to keep borrowing costs low to encourage hiring and investment.

The Fed said it would "await more evidence" that the economy was improving before starting to pull back its stimulus program.

The Fed's announcement was mostly expected by investors.

Since the Fed's last meeting in September, the economy suffered a blow because of the 16-day partial shutdown of the U.S. government and the near-breach of the nation's borrowing limit.

As a result, investors thought it would be highly unlikely the Fed would make any changes to its stimulus program until was more evi-

dence that the U.S. could grow without the central bank's help.

The soonest the Fed could revisit its bond-buying pro-

be confirmed by the Senate.

It is seen as unlikely Bernanke would take on such a large project like pulling

pull back, said Dean Junkans, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank.

On Wednesday, the Dow

The Dow and S&P 500 closed at record highs Tuesday.

The Nasdaq composite fell 21.72 points, or 0.6 percent, to 3,930.62.

Bond prices also fell after the Fed's announcement. The yield on the benchmark U.S. 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.54 percent from 2.50 percent the day before.

Stocks of home construction companies fell after the Fed said in its policy statement that "the recovery in the housing sector slowed somewhat in recent months." Last month, the Fed said housing "has been strengthening."

KB Home fell 47 cents, or 3 percent, to \$17.49. Luxury homebuilder Toll Brothers fell 56 cents, or 2 percent, to \$33.56 and PulteGroup fell 21 cents, or 1 percent, to \$18.00.

Despite the decline Wednesday, October has been a big month for the stock market. With just two days of trading left, the S&P 500 is up 4.9 percent, putting the index on track for its best month since July.

Investors also had another dose of quarterly earnings to work through.

General Motors rose \$1.17, or 3 percent, to \$37.23. After taking out one-time effects, the nation's largest automaker earned \$1.7 billion, or 96 cents per share, beat analysts' expectations of 94 cents per share. Western Union plunged \$2.39, or 12 percent, to \$16.85.

The money transfer company said late Wednesday that it may not see any profit growth in 2014 due to increasing regulation and compliance costs.

Facebook soared in after-hours trading after the company reported higher income than analysts were expecting. Facebook rose \$5.87, or 12 percent, to \$54.88.

The social media network said it earned an adjusted profit of 25 cents per share for the third quarter, six cents better than what analysts were expecting. Revenue jumped 60 percent to \$2.02 billion. □



**Trader Gregory Rowe, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. The stock market retreated from all-time highs Wednesday after the Federal Reserve said the U.S. economy still needed help from its stimulus program.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

gram will be at its mid-December meeting.

However, Ben Bernanke's term as Fed chairman ends in February and his successor, Janet Yellen, has yet to

back on the bond-buying program when he only has months left in the position.

"We're looking at March of next year at the earliest" before the Fed will start to

Jones industrial average lost 61.59 points, or 0.4 percent, to 15,618.76. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 8.64 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,763.31.

## Visa 4Q profit down 28% on tax provision

**JOSHUA FREED**

**AP Business Writer**

Visa Inc.'s fourth-quarter net income fell 28 percent as it set aside money for taxes, and it said it's making its plans based on a slow recovery of the U.S. economy.

The world's largest processor of debit and credit card payments says payments on its system rose 13 percent to \$1.1 trillion for the quarter.

Visa's results are closely watched because they can be a window into the buying habits and financial health of consumers.

The growth rate of the number of U.S. transactions slowed from August into September, showing constrained consumer spend-

ing, Chief Financial Officer Byron H. Pollitt said on a conference call. The com-

pany is assuming "a tepid recovery in U.S. economic growth," he said.

Net income fell 28 percent to \$1.19 billion, or \$1.86 per share, for the three months that ended Sept. 30, from \$1.66 billion, or \$2.48 per share, last year.

The results topped analysts' expectations by a penny, according to FactSet.

Revenue rose almost 9 percent to \$2.97 billion, a little less than the \$3.02 billion analysts expected.

The company set aside \$574 million for taxes, after benefiting from a \$74 million tax gain last year.

Shares of Visa, based in Foster City, California, fell 42 cents to close at \$203.82 on Wednesday. They dropped an additional \$6.07, or 3 percent, to \$197.75 after hours. □



**Visa credit and debit cards are displayed for a photographer in Baltimore. Visa Inc. reported mixed quarterly financial results after the market closed on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)



## Marriott's Q3 earning rise on higher rates, occupancy

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Marriott International's third-quarter earnings rose 12 percent thanks to higher occupancy, room rates and a pickup in short-term group bookings. The hotel chain, best known for brands like Courtyard, Ritz Carlton and Fairfield Inn, reported net income of \$160 million, or 53 cents per share, for the three

months ended Sept. 30. That was up from \$143 million, or 45 cents per share, in the 2012 third quarter. The Bethesda, Maryland-based company changed its reporting calendar and this year's quarter is eight days longer than last year. Marriott reported \$3.16 billion in revenue, up 16 percent from \$2.73 billion last year.

Analysts, on average, expected earnings of 45 cents per share and revenue of \$3.04 billion, according to FactSet. The company's revenue per available room — or REVPAR — was \$104.77, up 4.8 percent from the prior year. Analysts had predicted it would be \$104. The figure is an important gauge for the industry be-

cause it measures occupancy and rates. The company said it expects fourth-quarter profit to range between 47 cents and 50 cents per share, with revenue ranging from \$370 million to \$380 million. For the year, Marriott forecast profit between \$1.98 and \$2.01 per share, on revenue of \$15.25 billion to \$15.35 billion

Wall Street is expecting fourth quarter earnings of 55 cents per share, on revenue of \$3.35 billion, and full-year profit of \$1.99 per share, on \$12.74 billion revenue. Marriott International Inc. shares closed Wednesday trading down 41 cents at \$44.20, up 19 percent since the start of the year. They were unchanged after hours. □

## Starbucks' profit climbs as customers spend more

**CANDICE CHOI**  
**AP Food Industry Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Starbucks says its profit rose 34 percent in the quarter, as the coffee chain used its loyalty program to get customers to visit more often and spend more on revamped sandwiches and other food. The Seattle-based company said global sales rose 7 percent at cafes open at least a year, including an 8 percent rise in both the U.S. and Asia. In the region encompassing Europe, the Middle East and Africa, where the company has struggled, the figure rose 2 percent. The sales performance is somewhat of a standout in the restaurant industry. Chains including McDonald's and Burger King have blamed the weak economy as they fight to drive up sales. But others are faring relatively better, with Chipotle reporting a 6.2 percent sales increase at

stores open at least a year and Dunkin' Donuts reporting a 4.2 percent increase for the latest quarter. Starbucks Corp. has managed to keep growing through a mix of measures. It's adding items such as Evolution juices, which can cost as much as \$6 a bottle, and has rolled out new sandwiches and salads to get people to spend more when they stop in for a drink. Prices on several beverages were also hiked over the summer. Troy Alstead, Starbucks' chief financial officer, said the increase in the average receipt for the quarter was mostly because of food. "As they're adding those purchases, that's giving us a lift," he said. Still, Alstead said only about a third of purchases overall include food. But he said the trends are improving, and should continue to do so as the company finishes the roll-out of new La Boulange

baked goods. The company has also been benefiting from lower costs for coffee

beans. For the quarter, Starbucks said it earned \$481.1 mil-

lion, or 63 cents per share. Analysts expected 59 cents per share. A year ago, the



**Cups of Starbucks coffee drinks sit on a counter at a Starbucks store in Seattle. Starbucks reported surging quarterly earnings on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)**

lion, or 63 cents per share. Analysts expected 59 cents per share. A year ago, the

company earned \$359 million, or 46 cents per share. Revenue rose to \$3.8 billion,

percent to \$79.20. Over the past year, the stock is up more than 73 percent. □

## Facebook 3Q results fly past Street expectations

**BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook's posted a 60 percent revenue increase in the third quarter thanks to mobile advertising growth. The numbers beat Wall Street's expectations for the second consecutive quarter. The world's largest social network said Wednesday that it earned \$425 million, or 17 cents per share, in the July-September period. That's up from a loss of \$59 million, or 2 cents per share, in the same period a year ago. Adjusted earnings were

\$621 million, or 25 cents per share, in the latest quarter. That's 6 cents better than analysts expected. This figure excludes special items, mainly stock compensation expenses. Revenue grew 60 percent to \$2.02 billion from \$1.26 billion, helped by increasing mobile advertising revenue. Analysts, on average, were expecting revenue of \$1.91 billion, according to FactSet. "The strong results we achieved this quarter show that we're prepared for the next phase of our com-

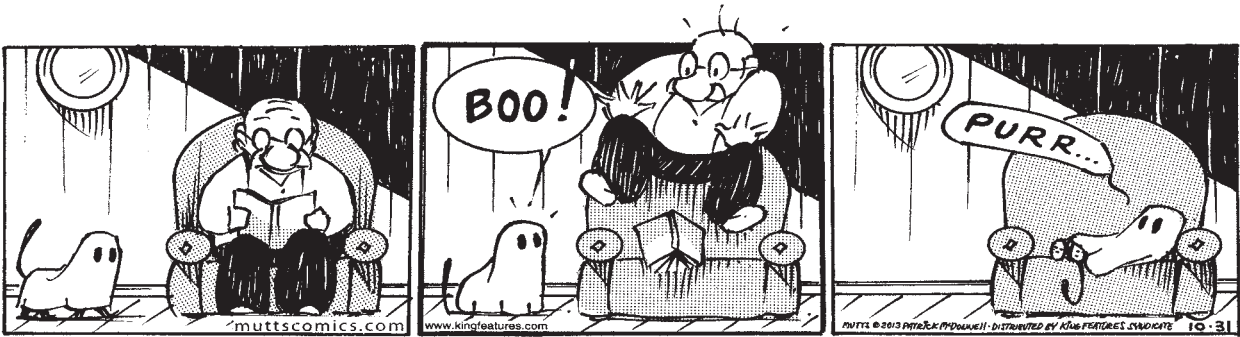
pany, as we work to bring the next five billion people online and into the knowledge economy," CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement. Facebook's advertising revenue was \$1.8 billion, up 66 percent from a year ago. Mobile ads accounted for 49 percent of the company's total ad revenue during the quarter. In the second quarter, mobile ads amounted to 41 percent of the total. The increase shows Facebook's strategy to become a "mobile-first" company is paying off. At the same time, Face-

book is growing its share of the mobile advertising market. Research firm eMarketer estimates that Facebook will grab 15.8 percent of the world's mobile ad spending this year, up from 5.4 percent last year. Google Inc., meanwhile, is expected to capture 53.2 percent this year, up slightly from a 52.4 percent share in 2012. There were 1.19 billion Facebook users as of the end of September, up 18 percent from a year ago. Of these, an average of 728 million users logged in every day during the

month of September, up 25 percent from a year ago. Facebook had 874 million monthly mobile users at the end of the quarter, up 45 percent year-over-year. In a conference call with analysts, though, Facebook finance chief David Ebersman said that the company did see a decrease in daily use among younger teenagers. That's been a concern for some analysts who fear young people are migrating to newer sites. Luckily for Facebook, this includes the photo-sharing service it owns, Instagram. □



Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



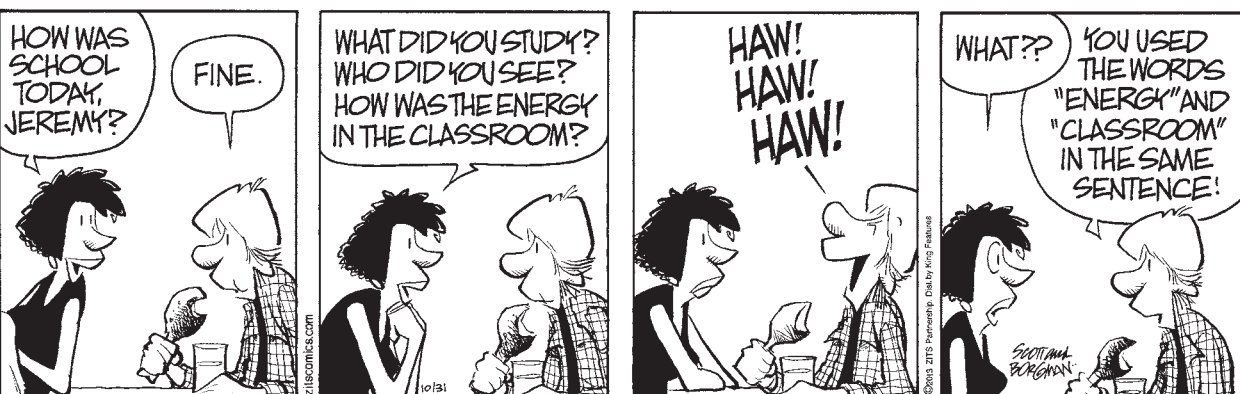
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9			2	3				
		1	9					
						6	3	
					1	4	6	
		6	1	9	7	3		
1	5	2						
3	4							
				8	7			
			4	6			2	

Difficulty Level ★★

10/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

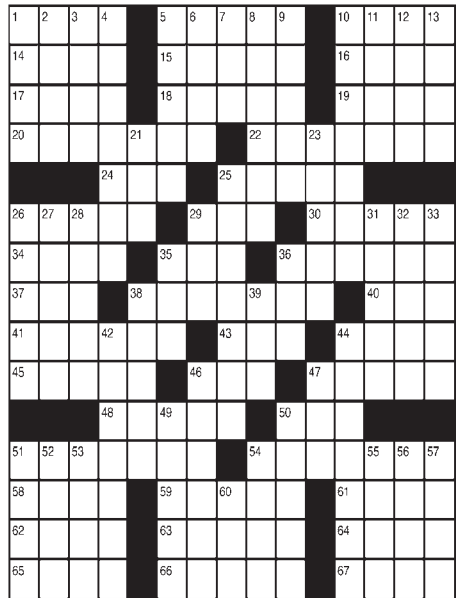
6	2	5	1	8	3	9	7	4
8	9	1	6	4	7	3	5	2
7	3	4	2	9	5	8	1	6
9	1	8	5	2	4	7	6	3
2	6	3	8	7	1	5	4	9
4	5	7	9	3	6	2	8	1
3	4	2	7	6	8	1	9	5
1	8	6	3	5	9	4	2	7
5	7	9	4	1	2	6	3	8

ACROSS

- 1 Fruits on a dried fruit tray  
5 out; get rid of gradually  
10 around; look for a good buy  
14 Border on  
15 Ne'er-do-well  
16 Theater box  
17 Lucie's dad  
18 One who finds you a seat  
19 Days of ; yesteryear  
20 Ultra  
22 Wander around  
24 Deli loaf  
25 Row of shrubs  
26 Concur  
29 Help  
30 Actor's award  
34 Go first  
35 Spot on a die  
36 Not outdoors  
37 Conjunction  
38 Guests  
40 Car fuel  
41 Cried out complainingly  
43 Sort; type  
44 Arrived  
45 Rowed  
46 Stinging insect  
47 Most terrible  
48 Storm and Gordon  
50 Split soup  
51 African hunting expeditions  
54 Steak and ; pricey entrée  
58 Make sweaters  
59 Audio's companion  
61 Ripped  
62 Not working  
63 Just right  
64 Scrambled  
65 Recolored  
66 Knocks down  
67 Cheer

DOWN

- 1 Lose color  
2 Mountain goat  
3 Violent wind  
4 Woke up



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/31/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

OBI	RABBI	DATA
WINS	ASIAN	EVER
EACH	THERE	SIAM
SHATTERED	IDLY	
PALS	ITS	
STRIKE	EMBITTER	
CRANE	EXILE	ELI
RUNG	MAPLE	SEAS
ACT	FERAL	DANTE
PESKIE	ST MESSAGES	
INK	HASH	
BEDS	NEGOTIATE	
AXES	EVERT	YIPS
NILE	SENSE	SKIP
STIR	SNEER	ICY

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10/31/13

- 38 Fragrant wood  
39 Tavern order  
42 Made invalid  
44 Roller ; thrilling ride  
46 Next to  
47 Spider creation  
49 White with rage  
50 Combines  
51 Slide sideways on an icy road  
52 Actor Griffith  
53 Emery board  
54 Faucet problem  
55 African nation  
56 Therefore  
57 Nap  
60 Nov.'s follower



# Halloween or not, a softer shade of goth

RACHEL SYME

© 2013 New York Times

They appear at the front of drugstores every year: the Halloween makeup displays, bearing inky black nail polishes and blood-red lip shades. "Go goth," they whisper, "Channel your in-

and black lipstick (think Robert Smith of the Cure). The look was intense, a statement, a rebellion, perhaps, against a decade of disco glitter followed by one of peppy frosted pink and teal.

But in 2013, the most dra-

as with magic, it's the trick you don't see that is the most effective.)

"The '90s look, with all that eyeliner and heavy lips, is too much and can look cartoonish," said Suzy Gerstein, a makeup artist who recently demonstrated

darkness under the eye is all a part of the goth appeal."

Gerstein said to eschew pink or rose blush, and instead choose a taupe sculpting powder on the cheekbones. "I use MAC, in a neutral tone," she said. "It's a clever way to enhance bone structure without that flush that rouge gives. It's like invisible blush, which works well when dealing with a paler look." But the star of the neo-goth look is the lips, and for this, Gerstein recommended a deep purple (almost black) pencil like MAC Nightmoth. "Don't be afraid of the darkest color in the store," she said.

"Don't even be afraid to mix in some black eye pencil with the color. The key is looking like you just ate a bird, or a rat." □



Annabelle Tsaboukas receives a neo-Goth makeover by makeup artist Suzy Gerstein at Salon SCK in New York. Gerstein describes the softer Goth look as beautiful, but in a scary way that looks as if you might bite someone. (Tina Fineberg/The New York Times)

ner Wednesday Addams." We've all been tempted. And yet, once the products come home, it's difficult to know how to wield them without looking like a long-lost cast member from "The Craft."

But this year, even before Halloween, more women seem to be finding ways to wear Gothic-influenced makeup: a look of dark lips and pale skin that has been seen on recent runways including Badgley Mischka, Yohji Yamamoto, and Louis Vuitton. Even Kim Kardashian has worn black nails (though she talked on her reality show about removing the polish before the delivery of her baby). It takes some maneuvering to pull it off, but if done properly, neo-goth makeup is more subtle than subculture, more celebratory than sallow.

This may be part of the ongoing revival of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Back then, the goth face featured a pale - and sometimes ghostly white - base, topped with layers and layers of cosmetic drama, including heavy eyeliner

and black lipstick (think Robert Smith of the Cure). The look was intense, a statement, a rebellion, perhaps, against a decade of disco glitter followed by one of peppy frosted pink and teal.

matic aspects of the look - jet-black headbanger hair, fuzzed-out kohl rimming the eyes, and pure white Alice Cooper-esque face paint - have been replaced by softer, more feminine elements. "It's much more soft this time around," said Meredith Stebbins, editor of the beauty subscription site Birchbox. "Celebs like Jennifer Lawrence, Nicole Richie and Kristen Stewart started to embrace vampy makeup on the red carpet and proved that it was very wearable and pretty." On FX's "American Horror Story," which focuses on a coven of glamorous witches in New Orleans, Jessica Lange, who plays the high priestess, wears sheath dresses, stilettos and luminous, soft makeup, while her young charges play with pale palettes and dark lips without looking overdone. The key to neo-goth, perhaps: less zombie, more ethereal. The impulse to look mysterious, powerful and almost intimidating is still there, but the sharp edges are gone. (Perhaps women are realizing that,

the look on a model as this reporter looked on. "The main components are still there, including a heavy brow and a pale face. But you must look pale without looking washed-out."

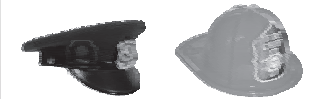
"Start with your normal foundation," Gerstein said, "and mix in a shade that is just a touch lighter, or even a white pearl highlighter. That way you can get a pale base without looking like a ghost."

Next, she suggested using a combination of rose-colored and tawny shadows on the eyes to create a delicate red-rimmed effect. "For this look, because it's all about the lips, the eyes should simply nod to the goth look without all that smudgy liner," Gerstein said. "And no mascara! That's the mistake that most people make. Because the lip is wine-dark, the eyes should look a bit undone. As for brows, brush color into them in an upward motion. That way, you can get a heavy color but avoid looking like Groucho Marx. Conceal under-eye circles, but not too much. That little bit of

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# Search for dark matter comes up empty so far

CHET BROKAW

SETH BORENSTEIN

Associated Press Writers

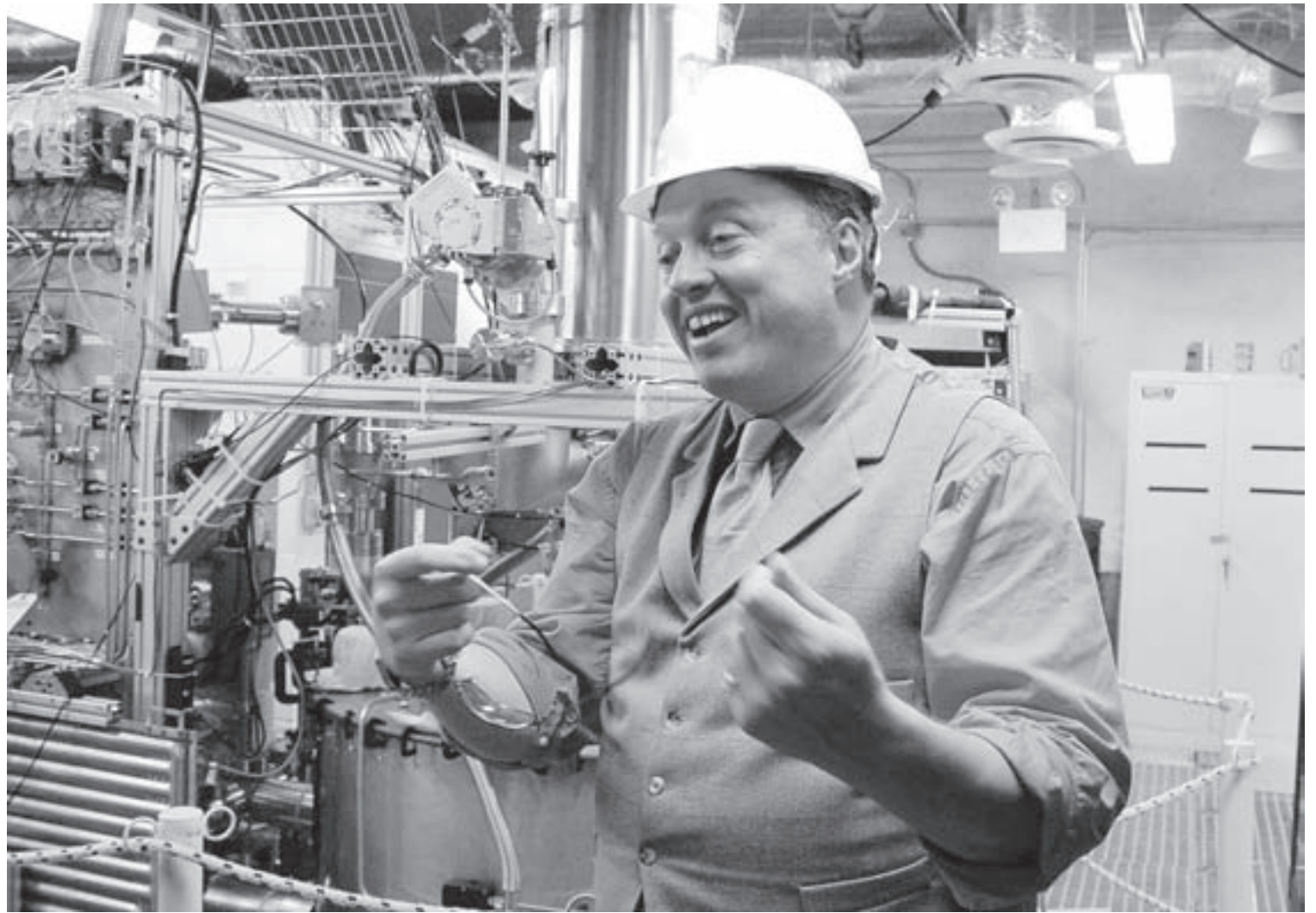
LEAD, South Dakota (AP)

— Nearly a mile underground in an abandoned gold mine, one of the most important quests in physics has come up empty-handed in the search for the elusive substance known as dark matter, scientists announced Wednesday. The most advanced Earth-based search for the mysterious material that has mass but cannot be seen turned up "absolutely no signal" of dark matter, said Richard Gaitskell of Brown University, a scientist working on the Large Underground Xenon experiment. A detector attached to the International Space Station has so far also failed to find any dark matter.

Physicists released their initial findings Wednesday after the experiment's first few months of operation at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, which was built in the former Homestake gold mine in South Dakota's Black Hills.

With 4,580 feet (1,400 meters) of earth helping screen out background radiation, scientists tried to trap dark matter, which they hoped would be revealed in the form of weakly interacting massive particles, nicknamed WIMPs. The search, using the most sensitive equipment in the world, tried looking for the light fingerprint of a WIMP bouncing off an atomic nucleus of xenon cooled to minus 150 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 101 Celsius). But nothing was found, said co-investigator Daniel McKinsey, a physicist at Yale University. The team plans to keep looking for another year, but McKinsey and Gaitskell were not optimistic about finding dark matter with the current setup. They are already planning to build a more sensitive experiment on the site, using a bigger tank of xenon.

"The short story is that we didn't see dark matter interacting, but we had the most sensitive search for dark matter ever per-



In this Oct. 29, 2013, photo Richard Gaitskell, study co-investigator from Brown University, explains an experiment being conducted deep in an abandoned gold mine in Lead, S.D., gold mine to search for elusive and mysterious dark matter.

Associated Press

formed in the world," McKinsey said.

The lab, in a bright, clean space at the end of an old mining tunnel filled with pipes and electric cables, is reached by a 10-minute ride in an elevator that once carried miners. Gaitskell and McKinsey said the experiment has far less radiation interference from cosmic rays than any other dark-matter lab.

Essentially, scientists are searching for something they are fairly sure exists and is crucial to the entire universe. But they do not know what it looks like or where to find it. And they are not sure if it's a bunch of light particles that weakly interact or if it is more like a black hole.

"It's ghost-like matter," McKinsey said.

"We are really searching in the dark in a way," said Harvard University physicist Avi Loeb, who is not part of the LUX team. "We have no clue. We don't know what this matter is."

But they keep looking. Gaitskell has been hunting

for dark matter for 25 years, originally thinking the effort would take five years. "It's like the pursuit of the Holy Grail, but hopefully this has a different outcome."

Even more so than the recently discovered Higgs Boson, dark matter is central to the universe.

"Dark matter holds every cosmic structure in the universe together," including our own galaxy, said University of Chicago cosmologist Michael Turner, president of the American Physical Society. Turner was not part of the LUX study.

About one-quarter of the universe is comprised of dark matter — five times that of the ordinary matter that makes up everything we see. Dark matter is often defined by what it isn't: something that can be seen and something that is energy.

Researchers are pretty sure dark matter exists, but they are not certain what it is made of or how it interacts with ordinary matter. Dark matter is vital to all the scientific theories explain-

ing how the universe is expanding and how galaxies interact and move.

"We know there's stuff out there that is something else and that makes these searches hugely important because we know we are missing most of the universe," said Neal Weiner, director of the Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics at New York University, who was not part of the search.

Gaitskell and McKinsey said they looked for three "candidate WIMP events" that other teams' experiments hinted at finding. And LUX came up completely empty, indicating that those other experiments must not have found anything.

One of the experimenters, Juan Collar of the Univer-

sity of Chicago, said he wanted to see the details from the LUX results before assessing how it affected his work.

The lack of success could just mean the equipment isn't sensitive enough, so bigger, more sensitive and expensive equipment will be needed, Gaitskell and McKinsey said.

Or it could be, considering the lack of knowledge about what dark matter really is, that "perhaps we're going in the wrong direction," Loeb said.

He said dark matter is most likely a particle and that fits with current theory. But if it is more like a small black hole, physicists will not uncover it in this type of search. Or it may be so small, we cannot find it. □





## Hugh Jackman honors mother-in-law at Angel Ball



From left, actor Hugh Jackman, his mother-in-law Fay Duncan and wife Deborah-Lee Furness attend Angel Ball 2013 on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Hugh Jackman decided to marry the daughter of a woman who's dedicated her life to fighting cancer, he became part of the fight as well — it was a package deal.

The "X-Men" actor said that when he asked his mother-in-law Fay Duncan — presi-

dent of the Fight Cancer Foundation in Australia — for her blessing when he proposed to Deborah-Lee Furness, she told him that supporting the fight against cancer was one of the requirements to get that blessing.

On Tuesday night, Jackman and his wife paid tribute to Duncan, one of

several honored at the annual Angel Ball benefit that raises funds for cancer research.

He joked: "If you're expecting an actor to start sucking up to his mother-in-law, you're absolutely right." The evening featured performances from Pharrell Williams, Usher and Chaka Khan. □



This April 25, 2009 file photo shows Bob Barker attending The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at The University of California Los Angeles, in Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

## Bob Barker to mark his 90th birthday on 'Price'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — CBS says "The Price is Right" is planning a milestone birthday celebration for former host Bob Barker.

Barker will celebrate his 90th birthday with an appearance on the game show in December, the network said Tuesday. He retired as host in 2007 after

35 years with "The Price is Right."

The show also will pay tribute to Barker's longtime animal activism by featuring pet adoptions during the week of Dec. 9-13.

Barker will be on "The Price is Right" on his birthday, Dec. 12, and will present a special showcase to mark the occasion, CBS said. □

## Chris Brown heading to rehab after assault charge

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Troubled singer Chris Brown is heading to rehab.

A representative for the R&B star announced Tuesday that Brown has decided to go to rehab a day after he was released from jail following his arrest for allegedly punching another man in Washington. Brown remains on probation after his 2009 attack on then-girlfriend Rihanna and could face jail time as a result of the arrest.

"Chris Brown has elected to enter a rehab facility," a statement said. "His goal is to gain focus and insight

into his past and recent behavior, enabling him to continue the pursuit of his life and his career from a healthier vantage point."

Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, said Tuesday night the singer checked in at an unspecified facility to be treated for anger issues. "He just decided he wanted to take some time off and do some introspection," Geragos said.

Brown and his bodyguard were arrested early Sunday morning after an altercation at The W Hotel in Washington. Brown was initially charged with felony assault after a man said Brown or his bodyguard broke his

nose with a punch when he tried to get a picture with the singer. The charge was reduced to a misdemeanor Monday and he was released from jail.

Though his troubles in Washington are no longer as serious as first thought, the arrest could still have ramifications for the 24-year-old Grammy Award winner.

Brown was placed on four years of probation after pleading guilty to assaulting Rihanna in California. He was required to take domestic violence courses and perform 1,400 hours of community service.

Brown's probation was briefly revoked this summer



In this Monday, Oct. 28, 2013 file photo, singer Chris Brown, center, departs the H. Carl Moultrie courthouse after he was released from jail following his arrest for allegedly punching another man, in Washington.

Associated Press

after a hit-and-run incident and a judge ordered him to perform an additional 1,000 hours of community service because there were questions about whether he actually completed his initial penalty.

Geragos has said the singer

will be exonerated. He said Brown's decision to enter rehab is not an acknowledgement of wrongdoing in the Washington case.

The singer faces up to four years in prison should a judge decide to revoke his probation again. □



## Kristin Cavallari, Jay Cutler expecting second baby



This April 12, 2012 file photo shows Kristin Cavallari at the Conde Nast Traveler Hot List Party at The Presidential Suite of Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kristin Cavallari and her Chicago Bears quarterback husband Jay Cutler are one step closer to having their own football team. Cavallari is pregnant with their second baby. The 26-year-old former star of MTV's "Laguna Beach" and "The Hills" confirmed the news Wednesday on

Twitter. She wrote: "We are so excited for Camden to be a big brother!"

Camden is the couple's 14-month-old son. Cavallari and Cutler were married last June in Nashville, Tenn. The family splits their time between Nashville and Chicago. □

## Stevie Wonder plans to release 2 albums next year



In this May 19, 2013 file photo, Stevie Wonder performs at The Hangout Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Associated Press

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stevie Wonder two albums next year, including some newly written songs, and he's working on a third. The 63-year-old performer said in an interview Tuesday that his first albums in eight years would be "When the World Began," a collaboration with producer David Foster, and "Ten Billion Hearts." Wonder, who filed for divorce last year, said the

new music was inspired by "my children, family, change, growth, heartbreaks."

He's also using hip-hop elements to convey political messages.

"I listen a lot to rap, and I'm inspired to take it, to use it in another way, to get the message across," Wonder said.

Rolling Stone reported over the summer that the album with Foster would include reworked versions of several of his biggest hits

played with a symphony orchestra.

Wonder also plans to fulfill a promise to his mother Lula, who died in 2006, by recording a gospel album in her memory.

"I might sing a gospel song in Arabic or do something in Hebrew. I want to mix it up and do it differently than one might imagine," he said. "Obviously the good word at the end of the day, it's not about the religion, it's about the relationship. And I think we all need to check our relationship."

First, though, Wonder plans a celebration of one of his most acclaimed albums, 1976's "Songs in the Key of Life."

Joined by musicians from the original recording as well as contemporary recording artists, Wonder will perform the album in its entirety for the first time Dec. 21 at his annual Los Angeles charity concert. Last year's House Full of Toys benefit concert included performances from Justin Bieber and Drake. □

## Marvin Gaye's children sue over 'Blurred Lines'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two of Marvin Gaye's children sued Robin Thicke and his collaborators on the hit song "Blurred Lines" on Wednesday, accusing them of copyright infringement and alleging music company EMI failed to protect their father's legacy. Nona Marvisa Gaye and Frankie Christian Gaye's suit is the latest action in a dispute over Thicke's hit and whether it copies elements of Gaye's song "Got to Give It Up."

Their lawsuit seeks to block Thicke and collaborators Pharrell and T.I. from using elements of their father's music in "Blurred Lines" or other songs.

Thicke has denied copying Gaye's song for "Blurred Lines," which has the longest streak this year atop the Billboard Hot 100 chart



This Aug. 1, 2013 file photo shows R&B singer-songwriter Robin Thicke in New York.

Associated Press

and has sold more than 6 million tracks so far. Much of the lawsuit focuses on claims that EMI should have pursued a

copyright infringement claim. It accuses the company's executives of using intimidation to try to stop the Gaye family from pur-

suing a lawsuit. The suit claims EMI, which is owned by Sony Music Entertainment, has allowed a conflict of interest be-

tween the family's rights and the profits it is earning from "Blurred Lines" sales.

A phone message seeking comment from Sony Music was not immediately returned.

Thicke and his collaborators filed a case in August asking a federal judge to rule that the singers did not copy "Got to Give It Up" for their hit.

Howard King, who represents the singers, said the Gayes' countersuit was not unexpected, but he said their decision to sue EMI demonstrates that the family lacks the appropriate authority to pursue the case against his clients.

He rejected the notion that EMI ignored improper copying of Gaye's music. "EMI is in the business of collecting money for infringements," King said. □



# The Big Kludge



PAUL KRUGMAN  
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The good news about Health-Care.gov, the portal to Obamacare's health exchange, is that the administration is no longer minimizing its problems. That's the first step toward fixing the mess - and it will get fixed, although it's anyone's guess whether the new promise of a smoothly functioning system by the end of November will be met. We know, after all, that Obamacare is workable, since many states that chose to run their own exchanges are doing quite well.

But while we wait for the geeks to do their stuff, let's ask a related question: Why did this thing have to be so complicated in the first place?

It's true that the Affordable Care Act isn't as complex as opponents make it out to be. Basically, it requires that insurance companies offer the same policies to everyone; it requires that each individual then buy one of these policies (the individual mandate); and it offers subsidies, depending on income, to keep insurance affordable.

Still, there's a lot for people to go through. Not only do they have to choose insurers and plans, they have to submit a lot of personal information so the government can determine the size of their subsidies. And the software has to integrate all this information, getting it to all the relevant parties - which isn't happening yet on the federal site.

Imagine, now, a much simpler system, in which the government just pays your major medical expenses. In this hypothetical system you wouldn't have to shop for insurance, nor would you have to provide lots of personal details. The government would be your insurer, and you'd be covered automatically by virtue of being an American.

Of course, we don't have to imagine such a system, because it already exists. It's called Medicare, it covers all Americans 65 and older, and it's enormously popular. So why didn't we just extend that system to cover everyone?

The proximate answer was politics: Medicare for all just wasn't going to happen, given both the power of the insurance industry and the reluctance of workers who have good insurance through their employers to trade that insurance for something new. Given these political realities, the Affordable Care

Act was probably all we could get - and make no mistake, it will vastly improve the lives of tens of millions of Americans.

Still, the fact remains that Obamacare is an immense kludge - a clumsy, ugly structure that more or less deals with a problem, but in an inefficient way.

The thing is, such better-than-nothing-but-pretty-bad solutions have become the norm in American governance. As Steven Teles of Johns Hopkins University put it in a recent essay, we've become a "kludgeocracy." And the main reason that is happening, I'd argue, is ideology.

To see what I mean, look at the constant demands that we make Medicare - which needs to work harder on cost control, but does a better job even on that front than private insurers - both more complicated and worse. There are demands for means-testing, which would involve collecting all the personal information Obamacare needs but Medicare doesn't. There is pressure to raise the Medicare age, forcing 65- and 66-year-old Americans to deal with private insurers instead.

And Republicans still dream of dismantling Medicare as we know it, instead giving seniors vouchers to buy private insurance. In effect, although they never say this, they want to convert Medicare into Obamacare. Why would we want to do any of these things? You might say, to reduce the burden on taxpayers - but Medicare is cheaper than private insurance, so anything taxpayers might gain by hacking away at the program would be more than lost in higher premiums. And it's not even clear that government spending would fall: the Congressional Budget Office recently concluded that raising the Medicare age would produce almost no federal savings. No, the assault on Medicare is really about an ideology that is fundamentally hostile to the notion of the government helping people, and tries to make whatever help is given as limited and indirect as possible, restricting its scope and running it through private corporations. And this ideology, at a fundamental level - more fundamental, even, than vested interests - is why Obamacare ended up being a big kludge. In saying this I don't mean to excuse the officials and contractors who made such a mess of health reform's first month. Nor, on the other side, am I suggesting that health reform should have waited until the political system was ready for single-payer. For now, the priority is to get this kludge working, and once that's done, America will become a better place. In the longer run, however, we have to tackle that ideology. A society committed to the notion that government is always bad will have bad government. And it doesn't have to be that way. □



# A Bold Bid For Better Schools



FRANK BRUNI  
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If there's a key to this nation's sustained competitiveness, it's education. And if there's a key to the kind of social mobility that's integral to our country's cherished narrative, to its soul, it's giving kids from all walks of life teachers and classrooms that beckon them toward excellence. But like all aspects of American policymaking these days, the push to improve public schools bucks up against factionalism, pettiness, lobbies that won't be muted and sacred cows that can't be disturbed. Progress that needs to be sweeping is anything but. That's why my eyes turn to Colorado. That's why yours should, too. The state is on the precipice of something big. On Election Day next Tuesday, Coloradans will decide whether to ratify an ambitious statewide education overhaul that the Legislature already passed and that Gov. John Hickenlooper signed but that voters must now approve, because Colorado law gives them that right in regard to tax increases, which the overhaul entails. Arne Duncan, the nation's education secretary, has said that the success of Amendment 66, which is what voters will weigh in on, would make Colorado "the educational model for every other state to follow." It's significant in many regards, especially in its creation of utter-

ly surprising political bedfellows. Amendment 66 has the support of many fervent advocates of charter schools, which the overhaul would fund at nearly the same level as other schools for the first time. In fact one prominent donor to the campaign for Amendment 66 is Ben Walton, whose family's philanthropy, the Walton Family Foundation, champions school choice and is loathed by teachers' unions. And yet the two most powerful of those unions, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, have endorsed Amendment 66. The NEA and its state arm, the Colorado Education Association, have together donated \$4 million toward the amendment's passage.

Part of what rallied the unions to the overhaul, which many unionized teachers initially resisted, is its infusion of an extra \$950 million annually into public education through the 12th grade, a portion of which could go to rehiring teachers who lost jobs during the recession and to hiring new ones for broadly expanded preschool and kindergarten programs. That's an increase of more than 15 percent over current funding levels, which put Colorado well behind most other states in per-pupil spending, and it would be made possible by a tax increase that replaces the state's flat rate of 4.63 percent with a rate of 5 percent on household income up to \$75,000 and 5.9 percent on income above that. Because of that increase, all of the Republicans in Colorado's Legislature, controlled by Democrats, voted against the overhaul, which The Wall Street Journal recently portrayed as an ultraliberal, union-coddling scheme to begin soaking Coloradans with new taxes. Passage of Amendment 66, the Journal wrote, would prove "that millions of Coloradans have taken to smoking that marijuana they legalized last year."

There's no such reefer madness. If the overhaul were a social-

ist sop to teachers' unions, the campaign for it wouldn't have received \$1 million from Michael Bloomberg and the support of some prominent Colorado businesses.

It does direct more money proportionally to poor schools and at-risk students, but as Hickenlooper said to me, "Everybody has a self-interest in reducing the number of dropouts." He noted that more and better-educated high school graduates would mean less crime and a stronger workforce, attracting investment to Colorado.

He's by no means a conventionally liberal Democrat. Neither is the overhaul's chief architect, a young state senator named Mike Johnston who used to be a schoolteacher and principal and previously sponsored a law that ended traditional tenure in Colorado's public schools. It drew robust Republican support. His education overhaul is a shrewd grab bag of ideas from different camps that recognizes the political imperative of such eclecticism and the lack of any magic bullet for student improvement. It invests in early childhood education, teacher training, a fund for innovative projects, charters. It ratchets up local control and flexibility, giving principals an unprecedented degree of autonomy over spending. It also enables parents to see, online, how much money goes into instruction versus administration at their children's schools. There's transparency. Accountability.

And Amendment 66 hardly puts Colorado in the ranks of high-tax states.

"It's our idea of a grand bargain," Johnston told me.

In Washington, that phrase has become a punch line, that notion a mirage. And in Colorado? Fingers crossed. Because even if his plan turns out to be imperfect, it's a relatively bold stride in a country too accustomed to baby steps. And those just aren't good enough when it comes to children, knowledge and the future itself. □



# If A Druid Happens To Ring The Doorbell Today...

**MICHAEL TORTORELLO**  
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How will you be celebrating Samhain this year? What's that? You say you won't be observing the high Druid holiday of the ancient Celts? With all due respect, you're probably wrong and you probably will.

"Samhain is Halloween; Halloween is Samhain," said Ellen Evert Hopman, 61, an author, herbalist and Druid priestess and

turn back to the old ways to honor the Earth."

The holiday may share its DNA with Halloween, but the two are about as closely related as a toy poodle and a wolf. Where modern Halloween is mercantile, Samhain is magical; where Halloween is juvenile, Samhain is adult. Or try this: you celebrate Halloween by nibbling on candy; you celebrate Samhain by pouring whiskey over a bonfire. That's the bottle service

(the corpse-picking queen of the battlefield) and the Dagda (her erstwhile mate, the all-father). For their religious garments, the Druids are shooting for a Southern steampunk look, inspired by the band Delta Rae.

Samhain is probably the most popular of the eight annual Druid festivals, said Taryn Lyon, 27, the grove's "scribe" and a member of the witan, or vestry. "Just like there are Christmas Christians, there are Sam-

nounced SOW-in) lasts from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. The old Celtic calendar seemingly cleaved the year into two seasons, the dark half and the light. This was a harvest festival, then, and perhaps a New Year's revel as well.

Hopman said: "It's the time of year when everything is dying back, the vegetation is dying back. In the old days, people would assess how much fodder they had to feed the animals

above a stream, and then to a natural stone circle. It's two-way traffic, as the path is also a kind of fairy "superhighway," she said. Some friends have sighted them, and "I've heard them singing."

Hopman keeps an altar on the west lawn of her bucolic house. (Or maybe a better word to describe it is primitive: "The house that I live in used to be a chicken coop and a pigsty," she said.) "I'll put food out for them," she said of her magical guests from the Sidhe realm - that is, the otherworld or the fairy kingdom. "On Samhain, that's very traditional."

The tension between fantasy and historical truth is a matter of dogma among Druids. The original Druidry, scholars agree, was an oral tradition, and the record is fragmentary, at best. This lacuna leaves competing revivals (British Druid practice re-emerged in the 1700s) and Celtic reconstruction movements. It's fitting, then, that CedarLight has built its grove on bare ground. Ambling through the prayer garden, MacLuan said, "When we first came here, this backyard was empty." She pointed to a holly: "That was the only tree."

There was a time when MacLuan sowed the dirt with medicinal herbs. But the community planted a couple of pin oaks, and the squirrels scattered a few more. Now, 17 years on, the sanctuary is a shade garden. There had been talk at the beginning of a privacy fence. But CedarLight doesn't traffic in the occult, and it's not a bastion against the outside world. When a water main burst in a vacant house nearby, the earth turned into a bubbling mud pit. And however religious MacLuan may be about the value of good compost, Baltimore is no place, she said, "to have a compost pile on the ground."

For all the Druid ritual that goes on in the garden, there's no magic strong enough to drive out the rats. □



**Ashley Bryner, senior Druid of the CedarLight Grove community, sets up a ceremonial stone circle in Baltimore, Oct. 6, 2013. Bryner, 31, who leads one of the largest of 74 groves in A Druid Fellowship, says that contemporary Druids are not particularly doctrinal. But for most, the ancient Celtic holiday of Samhain is a more adult occasion than its distant offspring, Halloween. (Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)**

scholar. Irish monks, by most accounts, co-opted the earthy ritual and recast it with strait-laced saints. But the bones of the holiday wouldn't stay buried. The first historical record of Samhain, an engraved bronze calendar found in Coligny, France, dates to the first century B.C. The Druids of the British Isles went to ground a few centuries later, after the Romans rode in on chariots and "trashed the place," Hopman said. All the same, she said, "There have been people celebrating Samhain in Europe for thousands of years. It never ended. Now it's coming back with a vengeance, as more and more people

this Friday night, when CedarLight Grove celebrates in its parsonage and prayer garden. This house of worship is a clapboard fourplex on a residential street in northeastern Baltimore. Out in the yard, the Druids will circle around their World Tree, a green ash that connects the underworld, the heavens and the mortal realm. The officiants will make offerings at the "well" (here, an enamel bowl: The last thing the yard needs is a mosquito pond). And they will recite bardic tales around the fire.

The service, which is open to the public, will invoke a pantheon of deities with names like the Morrigan

hain Druids and pagans," she said.

How many folks will spend the next few days and nights worshipping the old gods? The 2008 American Religious Identification Survey put the number of American Druids at 29,000. But then, many Druids connect with the practice of paganism, and the survey counted 340,000 souls in this category. Add another 342,000 wiccans (fellow travelers), and Samhain starts to look like a pretty big party. Of course, that number would swell if you were to include the ancestors who have passed on - and Druids do, especially in this liminal season.

These days, Samhain (pro-

in the winter. And they'd judge how many animals they would keep and how many they would slaughter. There's a lot of death going on."

She continued: "It's a time of chaos. And when things break down like that, that's when the spirit world can bleed through more easily."

The holiday is one of the occasions when Hopman expects to encounter the fairies who share her wooded backyard, an oak forest of some 25 acres on a mountaintop near Amherst, Mass. On Samhain, a few members of her small Druid grove, Tribe of Oak, will proceed through the trees to a Colonial bridge